



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMMISSIONERS PARTNER WITH COLUMBUS CHAMBER TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

Chamber partnership to increase national awareness of Franklin County

Today, Franklin County Commissioners passed a resolution for a \$150,000 partnership with the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce for the period of August 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007 to provide economic development services for the Franklin County Commissioners. Through this partnership, the Chamber will increase national awareness of Franklin County as a desirable place to live and work.

The resolution includes an agreement that the Chamber will provide marketing, entrepreneurship, workforce development, infrastructure, and promote regional prosperity for Franklin County. The Chamber has several successful marketing initiatives that include promoting the central Ohio region and retaining young professionals from the regions colleges and universities. The County desires to develop and promote plans and programs to ensure that economic growth is properly balanced and coordinated with the state of Ohio.

Commission Board President Mary Jo Kilroy stated that the partnership with the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce is an investment in the future of Franklin County.

“This partnership is an example of the steps we are taking to ensure that our region is properly promoted throughout the country. The Chamber has implemented successful initiatives in the past that will be an excellent contribution to our vision to promote Franklin County as a great county to live and work in Ohio.”

Commissioner Paula Brooks was elated to approve the partnership and noted the importance of retail economy. “The County has forged a great relationship with the Columbus Chamber in building the workforce of tomorrow and recruiting and retaining business and good jobs for that workforce,” said Commissioner Paula Brooks. “Growing our regional economic strength is the reason for this important partnership.”

The Chamber will provide the following services in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code Marketing Initiative:

- **Marketing:** The Chamber will carry out activities which will increase national awareness of Franklin County as a desirable place to live and work.
- **Entrepreneurship:** The Chamber will conduct a series of activities and programs that support the creation and nurturing of emerging growth enterprises in Franklin County.
- **Workforce Development:** The Chamber will coordinate activities to ensure a labor supply in Franklin County that meets the needs of employers.
- **Infrastructure:** The Chamber will serve as an information resource to governmental agencies in Franklin County in connection with design, development prioritization, and investment in the public sector infrastructure.

- **Regional Prosperity:** The Chamber will conduct a series of forums and research projects to disseminate data and statistics related to Franklin County’ s economy, workforce, and other relevant areas.

Commissioner Marilyn Brown stated, “This partnership is a winner for the residents of Franklin County.” The expertise that the Columbus Chamber has in the area of marketing our region is parallel to none. With this partnership we are moving into the next phase of marketing Franklin County to the entire country.”

“Franklin County and the County Commissioners are strong partners in the Chamber’ s efforts to attract and retain business in the Columbus region,” said Ty Marsh, President and CEO, Columbus Chamber. “’ We are grateful for their support, which is important to the growth and prosperity of the county and the region.”