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TO: Mayor, Board of Aldermen
FROM: Michael Uskiewicz, Town Manager
DATE: February 1, 2010
CC: Carl Manning, Don Belk, Pierre Lauffer

RE: January 29, 2010 Economic Development Meeting Synopsis

On Friday, January 29, 2010, I had the pleasure of meeting with Carl Manning from Kingdom Development, Don Belk, BRAC Regional Planner and Pierre Lauffer, Planner Booz Allen Hamilton Inc. The four of us discussed an array of progressive topics centering around the impending growth of Spring Lake, the imminent explosion in various areas this promises to deliver to our Town, the impact of commercial, residential and economic development as well as Spring Lake's role in a variety of impending plans (both conceptual and existent.)

We are in full agreement that the Town must manifest a proactive approach moving forward. In the development and growth of the region due to BRAC and other key factors, Spring Lake is undeniable top priority and a key factor. *So goes Spring Lake, so goes the region.* It is more than developing an area; it is developing a community and a quality of life for the existing residents and businesses but also the ones who are coming and need to come; some have yet to discover that need. It is up to us to help them discover that need. We must not become passive or reactive. We must position ourselves in the forefront, remain bullish on Spring Lake and remain there. We must manifest a plan, capitalize on a creative theme that captures the true nature of the project and aggressively pursue the actions we wish to materialize.

Our plans need to incorporate grants for both residential and commercial development. We need to seek funds for the revitalization of downtown. We need to design a wise, integrated community that is interconnected not just a series of nodes or grids. This includes transportation, business and residential needs. We need to be forward thinking taking into account the future. We have excellent resources from which to start and from which to draw from. We just need to start. We do not need to lose our focus. Spring Lake is better positioned than Fayetteville to meet the needs of the growth coming to this region spurred from BRAC. This is not debatable. We can make it attractive for families and businesses. We have the ability to do so. The foundation is being laid. We merely need to step it up a notch. We need to work on the infrastructure.

We discussed the next steps being tapping into the existing Economic Development Committee in Spring Lake; working towards more grants and funding; working on a joint study with BRAC for the area; working towards coordinating a conference for businesses, developers and residents. We need to move faster than we are currently working. We will meet again and determine, at that time, what route to follow in regards to a solid plan as well as plans for grants and a business conference.

It was an extremely productive and exciting meeting. It was the first step in what will be many in making Spring Lake the Crystal City it is supposed to be.