



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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More Business Friendly Permitting in Three Towns Starting June 1st

Starting June 1, 2010, businesses in the three towns of Cornelius-Davidson-Huntersville will have access to a more customer friendly permitting process via a new communications plan and commercial occupancy checklist process. "We're thrilled to see a checklist," said one developer who attended an April 14 focus group attended by architects/engineers and developers invited to provide third party feedback of the new commercial plan and checklist.

"As part of Lake Norman Regional Economic Development Corporation's successful BRE (Business Retention & Expansion) program started in January of 2009, we listened to our existing industries' request for a more business friendly permitting process and responded to that need," says Charity Pitman, LNREDC Associate Director. "Helping meet existing companies' needs is a vital part of what we do as an economic development organization," says Pitman. "It's much cheaper to keep an existing company than it is to recruit one," she confirms.

Lake Norman Regional Economic Development Corporation invited a "Fast Track Team" of professionals from Mecklenburg County government, Land Use and Environmental Services Agency (LUESA), N. C. Department of Transportation, and the three town managers and planners to begin discussing ways to make commercial permitting more business friendly. Between August 26, 2009 and April 14, 2010, the team held numerous working meetings to share information and ideas.

Finalizing a new communications plan and commercial occupancy checklist meant getting feedback, so Lake Norman Regional EDC invited a focus group of area architects/engineers and developers to critique the proposed plan and checklist. "We were surprised to find that the focus group had no major issues with the project," says Kia Whittlesey, LUESA Land Development Manager and Professional Engineer. Kia Whittlesey and Dave Canaan with LUESA drafted the new plan after thorough discussion and additional meetings with the three town planners.

"The overall purpose of the new process is to help businesses occupy buildings on schedule by helping them clearly understand the expectations involved in advance," says Kris Krider with Town of Davidson. "This was a real consensus-building opportunity for the towns, county, economic development, and the state to create a solution based on our businesses' needs," he adds.

The three towns will implement the new communications plan and commercial occupancy checklist starting June 1, 2010. For more information, contact your town planning department at the phone numbers provided below. Copies of the new plan and checklist are also available on Lake Norman Regional EDC's website at www.lakenormanregion.com.

Town of Cornelius	704-892-6031
Town of Davidson	704-940-9618
Town of Huntersville	704-875-6541

LNREDC will continue collaborating with Fast Track Team members to monitor progress of the new permitting process and get continuous feedback from existing companies in the region on ongoing business needs. Since Lake Norman Regional EDC's existing company program started in January of 2009, the organization made over 80 company visits in Cornelius, Davidson and Huntersville, assisting businesses with issues like permitting, financing, benchmarking, marketing, expansion, training, healthcare, transportation, recycling, infrastructure, equipment needs, and more.

For every \$1 invested in LNREDC by private and public investors, almost \$39 has been reinvested by industries.

Since inception, Lake Norman Regional Economic Development Corporation (LNREDC) has brought over \$65 million in new capital investment to the region by recruiting new businesses and helping existing industries expand. For more information, visit www.lakenormanregion.com.

~LNREDC Industry Highlights~

- Prairie Packaging** - new industry at NMIP – 240 new jobs & \$48 million total industry/equipment investment
- Newell Rubbermaid** - \$7.55 million expansion/320 new jobs over five years
- Microban International** - \$8 million expansion/45 new jobs
- SAERTEX USA** –Invested \$6 million in equipment and added 70 employees in 2008
- Presbyterian Hospital/Huntersville** – Nearly \$11 million in upgrades, including a \$6.1 million same-day surgery center and a \$4.6 million endovascular suite for procedures like angioplasties
- Metrolina Greenhouses** - \$50 million expansion to a total of 150 acres
- Huber Technology** - Expanded its U.S. headquarters to lease an additional 10,200 sq. ft. in 2009 (triples the company's footprint) with a projected revenue of \$20 million in 2009. Since 2001, the company has expanded its employee base from five to 21 employees.
- Ovation Wireless Management** - Increasing sales from \$2 million to almost \$3 million by year-end 2009, expanded from 1,000 sq. ft. to 10,000 sq. ft. facility

For more information, contact:

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