

From: Adrienne Saputo [ASaputo@gwinnettchamber.org]
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 1:28 PM
Subject: Gwinnett/Metro Atlanta News: GWINNETT CONTINUES PURSUIT OF NEW URBANIST REDEVELOPMENT



GWINNETT CONTINUES PURSUIT OF NEW URBANIST REDEVELOPMENT

*Metro Atlanta's largest county showcases land reuse opportunities;
hosts third annual forum*

(METRO ATLANTA- GWINNETT January 27, 2012)- Partnership Gwinnett, in cooperation with The Council For Quality Growth, hosted the Third Annual Gwinnett Redevelopment Forum today at Gwinnett Place Marriott in Duluth. Designed to educate and inform attendees about local and regional redevelopment opportunities in Metro Atlanta's largest and most prominent community, the forum hosted more than 200 real estate developers, engineers, architects, and government officials.

Panelists explored new urbanism, redevelopment financing, best practices, and community case studies. Keynote speaker, Christopher B. Leinberger, President of LOCUS, Responsible Real Estate Developers and Investors and Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution, joined the forum to share urban land use and downtown redevelopment strategies.

"The real estate demand in metro Atlanta and Gwinnett County in the coming decades is for compact, walkable urban development, which works best with rail transit. Gwinnett understands this, and is helping to ensure they are at the forefront of this trend by using this Forum to highlight the potential for redevelopment in the county," said Leinberger.

With the lowest unemployment rate in Metro Atlanta's core counties for the past 31 consecutive months, the stable business environment found in Gwinnett provides companies looking to create or recreate their presence in the region with a highly educated workforce and an exceptional quality of life.

"Gwinnett County is positioned for significant investment in the form of positive redevelopment," said Chuck Warbington, Executive Director of the Gwinnett Village Community Improvement District. "Gwinnett's leadership has done a tremendous job of laying the foundation for redevelopment by evaluating current zoning ordinances, development regulations and incentive packages in an effort to make redevelopment more economically feasible."

Since 1970 Gwinnett County's population has grown by more than 1,000 percent (1970, 72,349; 2005, 727,000). With a population set to eclipse one million in the next decade and dwindling availability of undeveloped land, county and municipal leaders have come together through new initiatives to develop innovative strategies aimed at adopting the latest techniques for leveraging urban density.

