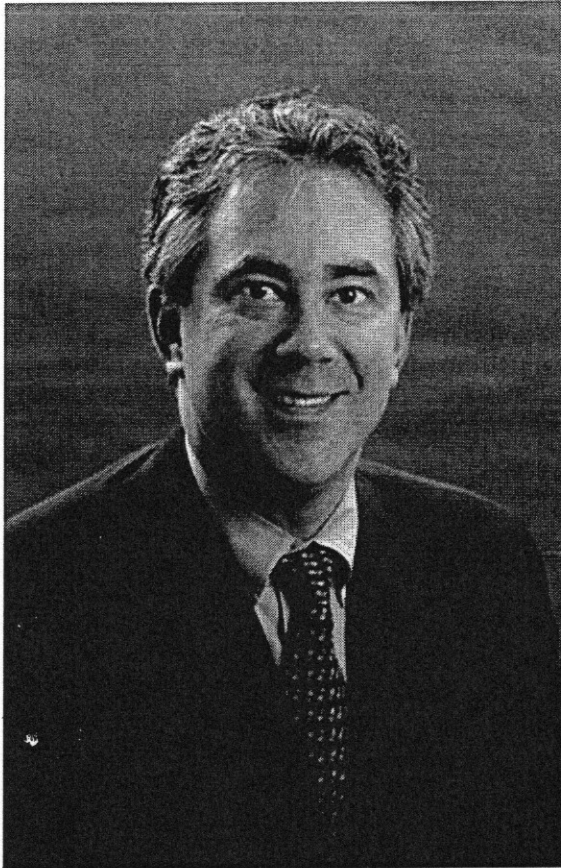


WIENER: Future of Gwinnett tied to revival of Gwinnett Place

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On the evening of Aug. 28, the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners took a bold step forward and endorsed a future vision for the Greater Gwinnett Place area -- Gwinnett County's central business district and the strategic heart of our community.

For the past year, the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District (CID) has worked in close concert with Gwinnett County, the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, area stakeholders and concerned citizens to craft proactive strategies that can dramatically transform greater Gwinnett Place, functionally and aesthetically, into a vibrant mixed-use activity center. The resulting recommendations are market-driven and are aimed at re-establishing the area as the thriving nucleus of Gwinnett County.

Launched in partnership with Gwinnett County and the Atlanta Regional Commission, the Gwinnett Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) is a roadmap that will create a new type of community in Gwinnett's central business district. Successful implementation of the market-driven recommendations of this

plan will require a true public-private partnership. Through the LCI process, stakeholders gained an understanding that doing nothing or maintaining the status quo would lead to failure because it places the area at a disadvantage relative to other competing communities. Gwinnett Place must evolve and remake itself if it is to be competitive again in the marketplace.

To achieve this vision, the concept plan recommends the implementation of new economic development strategies such as opportunity zones and tax allocation districts. Also, the plan calls for the revision of local land-use policies/regulations and new infrastructure investments aimed at changing the current suburban development pattern. Central to this implementation strategy is the creation of what has been called the Great

