

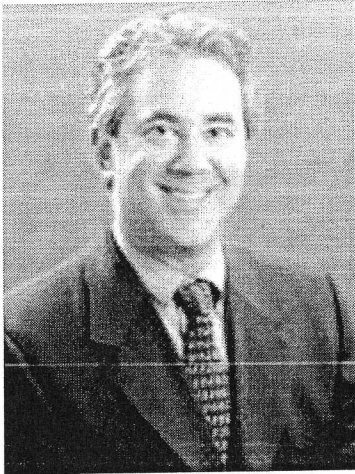
## WIENER: Gwinnett Place area showing growth

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By Leo Weiner



Leo Wiener

Investment and growth are occurring regularly throughout greater Gwinnett Place. The Board of Directors of the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District has maintained a singular focus toward improving the area's physical infrastructure and creating an environment conducive for economic re-development in Gwinnett's central business district, and our efforts are bearing tangible results.

Businesses are moving to, and investing in, the Gwinnett Place area as a result of the cohesive working partnership of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners, GPCID, and the Gwinnett Chamber's Partnership Gwinnett initiative. Proactive strategies and incentive tools are in place.

As a result, during 2013 alone, 475 new jobs were created in the area. Private sector investments in

greater Gwinnett Place include:

- ViaSat Inc. — Expands Building, Adds 275 New Jobs

A producer of satellite and digital communication products for government and commercial customers; 60,000-square-foot facility, \$10.5 million investment

- National DCP — Relocates from New England to Gwinnett Place

The exclusive sourcing, purchasing and distribution partner for Dunkin' Donuts restaurants; Corporate Office, 125 new jobs

- The Dennis Group — Opens Georgia Office in Gwinnett Place Area

Complete planning, architectural, process engineering, and construction management services exclusively to the food and beverage industry; corporate office location; 35 new jobs

- VetConnex — Launches New Location in Gwinnett Place Opportunity Zone

Specializes in providing customer service for Fortune 500 companies, while also providing veterans and their immediate families with post-deployment jobs; Customer Service Contact Center within the Greater Gwinnett Place Opportunity Zone, 300 jobs

Building upon Gwinnett's position as the most diverse county in the Southeastern United States, the greater Gwinnett Place global presence grew with the addition of HAMACO Industries Corporation's US headquarters, a subsidiary of Japan-based Hamada Industry Co. Ltd; Idaka

America Inc., a Japanese trading company that distributes machinery and spare parts to the automotive industry; Okaya (USA) Inc, an importer and exporter of iron and steel products; and TravelSky, a China-based IT solutions developer for the airline and tourism industry, will bring 50 new jobs to the area with the opening of their U.S. Development Center.

National real estate firms continue to invest in the greater Gwinnett Place area. The District welcomed Moonbeam Capital Investments LLC., the private real estate equity firm who purchased Gwinnett Place Mall in October 2013 and adds the mall to its list of properties across the U.S. Additionally, Rivercrest Realty Investors' purchase of Gwinnett Marketfair is a significant win for area retail. Biscayne Atlantic purchased the Gwinnett Commerce Center, a 10-story, 214,000-square-foot Class-A office building in the District in a joint venture with Red Starr Investments and PointOne Holdings.

These successes are a result of strong partnerships and a strategic plan to transform Gwinnett Place over the coming years. More expansions and relocations to the area will be announced soon, and we will continue with our laser-like commitment to bring economic redevelopment and success to the central business district of Gwinnett County.

*Leo Wiener is Chair of the Gwinnett Place CID Board of Directors. He is a principal and partner with Glenwood Development Company LLC, which specializes in acquisition, development and asset management of multi-tenant retail properties. His more than 15 years in commercial real estate includes divestitures, financial analysis, leasing, management, project financing and development.*