



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER



**THE CHAMBER**  
Of Greater Springfield

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SPRINGFIELD, OH (Feb. 7, 2020)**

**Chamber President, City Manager Rally Support for Kroger Talks**

Springfield City Manager Bryan Heck and Chamber of Greater Springfield President Mike McDorman are moving forward in talks with community leaders and Kroger Co. officials regarding the grocer's announcement to close the South Limestone location next month.

Kroger Co. announced last week that they will shutter the location at 1822 S. Limestone St. on March 4. Officials are concerned about the impact the closure will have on the Springfield community, and working to find solutions in the wake of the company's decision.

"As community leaders, it's our job to continually strike a balance between supporting neighborhood businesses and the interests of the public," said McDorman. "In this case, we have an established community grocer that is changing its business model, and residents who depend on the services they currently provide. We are committed to finding a solution that everyone can get behind."

Officials are concerned that the absence of a brick-and-mortar grocery in the South Limestone area will create a food desert in a part of the community that already has limited retail options.

"In addition to jobs that will be lost with the Kroger closure, there is also a question of transportation," said Heck. "A number of residents in the surrounding neighborhoods currently walk to the Kroger store, and just don't have the means to travel to other locations to shop."

The Kroger Co. has said that employees at the South Limestone store will be offered jobs at the other Springfield locations.

“City Manager Heck and I are committed to joining our community partners to discuss alternatives following the Kroger Company’s decision,” said McDorman.

“Our community’s strength derives from our ability to come to the table and compromise, to work together toward building a stronger future for everyone in our neighborhoods,” said Heck.

Community leaders are in talks with stakeholders, and public forum on the Kroger closure is scheduled for Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. at The Dome, 700 S. Limestone St.

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