



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

**Community Leaders Meet to Form Strategy around Kroger Closure**

A meeting of local and state public officials, organizations and community stakeholders was held Friday morning, Feb. 7, to discuss strategies in the wake of Kroger's announcement to close that location in March.

Springfield City, Clark County and State of Ohio officials joined local pastors, community foundations and organizations, and representatives from the local NAACP, Clark County Combined Health District and Mercy Health to begin discussions about grocery options in the South Limestone area.

The announcement by the Kroger Co. on Jan. 31 to close the location at 1822 S. Limestone St. next month took some community members by surprise and left residents concerned about their options in an area of the city already limited in retail options.

City and community leaders have said that the store's closure will create a food desert for residents who lack transportation and other means to shop at other Springfield grocers.

Friday's meeting was the latest move by community stakeholders to start a process for finding shopping and transportation alternatives for the South Limestone community that depended on Kroger's services. An open forum for public participation will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. at The Dome, 700 S. Limestone Street.

City Manager Bryan Heck will act as spokesperson for the group. He will be available for comment on Monday, Feb. 10.