



NEWS RELEASE

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE SPRINGFIELD, OH (Feb. 18, 2020)

Kroger to Donate Building, Funding to Community Following Closure

The Kroger Co. will donate the building and associated equipment at 1822 South Limestone Street and provide funding for food and transportation following the closure of its South Springfield location in March.

The company announced last month that it would close the store on South Limestone Street on March 4, limiting the community's access to fresh food and creating a food desert in the area.

A united front of community stakeholders, city, county and state government officials approached Kroger company officials with the following requests that the company has agreed to meet:

- Donate the building and land, including non-proprietary contents of the facility without restrictions on future use
- Contribute \$31,500 to support shuttle service from South Springfield to other community grocers
- Contribute a minimum of \$19,500 to the food bank to support additional food bank services

“When it became clear to us that Kroger would not keep the South Limestone store open, we asked the company to do right by our community,” said City Manager Bryan Heck. “Closing this store left the community without fresh food options and would create difficulties for some individuals to reach other grocery stores due to mobility issues.”

Heck said that officials are moving forward in talks with potential developers and community organizations to map out a future for the South Limestone property.

“This community is resilient; I’m proud of the way that this community comes together to find solutions to difficult issues,” said Heck. “We succeed when we work together, it’s when we are at our best, and this community is committed to finding positive outcomes in the wake of Kroger’s decision.”

A community meeting to discuss Kroger’s announcement will take place Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Dome, 700 S. Limestone St.

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