



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SPRINGFIELD, OH (Jan. 31, 2019)**

**Mayor Issues Statement on Kroger Closure Announcement**

Springfield Mayor Warren Copeland has issued the following statement:

“This morning, we received confirmation that the Kroger Company will close its location at 1822 S. Limestone St. on March 3. We in Springfield City Government are sorely disappointed that Kroger has made the unfortunate decision to withdraw from an area of our community that has so loyally patronized its services, particularly one year after shuttering its location on the north side of the city at Home Road. In my conversations with Kroger officials about improving the store they always assured me that they at least had no plans to close this store.

The closure will have an adverse impact not only in terms of lost jobs in our community, but also on our friends and neighbors in the surrounding neighborhoods who have long depended on the South Limestone Kroger for their shopping needs. We are extremely mindful of the void that this will create for area residents who already find retail options in their neighborhoods to be limited. Personally, as loyal customers of this store my wife and I are both disappointed and angry. We are particular worried about what happens to the people who work at the store who have served us very well and become our friends. We will find it hard to shop at any other Kroger stores given this corporate decision.

We are currently reaching out to community stakeholders and organizations to discuss options in the wake of the Kroger Company’s regrettable decision. The interests and wellbeing of those in our community remains our top priority and we will continue to work tirelessly to improve the day-to-day lives of everyone in Springfield.”