

DENNIS REQUESTS ANNEXATION ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO FOCUS ON WEST LAFAYETTE'S FUTURE

Revised plan focuses on economic development, U.S. 231 Corridor

West Lafayette, IN – June 19, 2013 – Reinforcing that annexation has been and continues to be about West Lafayette's future success in the 21st Century with the U.S. 231 Corridor at the core of the City's annexation plans to transform the community, Mayor John Dennis presented a revised annexation map at a 2:00 p.m. news conference today with previously included neighborhoods removed while requesting City Councilors consider approving the revised map and an amended annexation ordinance.

"I am placing an amended ordinance on our City Council's upcoming meeting agenda that removes the neighborhoods from the map, thereby respecting the residents' requests to be left out of our plans and allowing us to focus solely on the U.S. 231 Corridor as the key ingredient to our community's economic development future," Dennis said.

Within Dennis' proposed amendment, the following neighborhoods will be eliminated from the planned annexation area: The Greens, Green Meadows, Huntington Farms, McQuinn Estates, The Orchards, Sherwood Forest, and Wake Robin. Most of these neighborhoods were included in the City's original plans because these homeowners are City sewer customers.

According to Dennis, the City's annexation goals still include promoting private investment on the west side that fits the personality of the community while capturing the intellectual capital found at Purdue University and Purdue Research Foundation, giving those ideas room to grow and enhancing West Lafayette's attractiveness as a home for Purdue graduates and entrepreneurs.

"We want to transform Indiana from a manufacturing economy to an idea economy where 21st Century careers are born and provide a distinct gateway via U.S. 231 to West Lafayette and Purdue for significant growth opportunities," Dennis said.

Partnerships resulting from annexation are intended to elevate the local, regional, national and international brand of West Lafayette, Purdue University and Purdue Research Foundation, including improved identity along I-65 where more than 20 million people pass the current Exit 178 each year and see the misnomer "Purdue Stadium."

"As the saying goes, the only route to the future is through the present. Annexation is a community driven initiative. The process we undertook truly is democracy in action. We initiated discussions – through various verbal and written communications – with our friends and neighbors included in the original plan and believe these conversations and the resulting conclusion helped us arrive at a beneficial outcome for everyone.

"I look forward to hearing from our Councilors at our June 27 pre-Council meeting and July 1 Council meeting regarding my request to approve a revised annexation map based on residents' wishes," Dennis said.

If the City Council approves the amended ordinance with the neighborhoods removed, the City's U.S. 231 Corridor Annexation Fiscal Plan will be revised accordingly with a recalculation of anticipated expenses and revenue projections for the revised annexation area.

Following the Council's vote on the amended ordinance, next steps call for a public hearing notice to be sent certified mail to remaining property owners in the reconfigured annexation area at least 60 days prior to a public hearing date. The public hearing is residents' opportunity to hold public discussion about the City's plans.

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For questions or interview requests, contact Mayor Dennis at 765-775-5100 or Development Director Chandler Poole at 765-775-5160.