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Mayor

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City Administrator

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Clerk of Council / Finance Director

Joint statement by the City of Springdale and Artisan Village regarding the relocation of the Springdale Community Center

September 21, 2022

During the first quarter of 2022, the City of Springdale (“City”) and the developer of Artisan Village (the “Developer”) entered into a memorandum of understanding (“MOU”) relative to a potential relocation of the City’s community center into the first floor of the former Dillard’s building in the former Tri-County Mall.

The general terms of the MOU was that the Developer was to fund 100% of the construction cost and then donate the first floor, including the completed community center, which included fitness activities, rock climbing wall, two indoor pools, two indoor basketball courts, indoor elevated running track, etc., to the City. Following the donation, the City would staff, operate and fund the ongoing programming and operating cost of the Community Center.

Since the date of the execution of the MOU, both the Developer and the City have worked in good faith in an attempt to come up with a design and financial model that would be in the best interest of all stakeholders, yet most importantly, the citizens of the City.

During this due diligence period, the Developer expended substantial dollars for architect, engineering and design charrettes and activities, and the City held numerous community gatherings and citizen surveys in an effort to secure input and feedback from the citizens.

At the present time, the Developer remains committed to donate the Community Center to the City, however, in an effort to be fiscally responsible, and especially in an environment where interest rates continue to rise, inflation continues to be uncontrolled, and the overall cost of labor continues to expand, both the City and the Developer have decided to pause moving forward on this endeavor as the financial uncertainties could present undue financial risk for the citizens of the City.

Notwithstanding the fact that both the City and the Developer would like to pursue and conclude this public private partnership, it has been determined that in an effort to safeguard the assets of both the City and its citizens, that both parties will let the terms of the MOU expire without moving forward on the relocation.

This decision does not mean that the Developer and the City will stop discussions completely on the Community Center, nor does it adversely affect the redevelopment plans of Artisan Village. Nevertheless, it has been determined that it is in everyone’s best interest to press the pause button at the moment.

For further information, please contact Andy Kuchta at 513-346-3997 on behalf of the City.