For Immediate Release

IDEA Commons Design Charrette

The City of Springfield is in the process of adopting a plan for the IDEA Commons. One of the recommendations in the Plan is to consider adopting a form-based code zoning district for all or part of the IDEA Commons. Form-based code zoning districts include a strong design element to create an urban setting. They encourage mixed-use development and active streets that provide for alternatives to automobile transportation such as walking, bicycling and public transit. The design elements of the form-based code are particularly relevant for higher-density developments that support public transit ridership.

An important step in preparing the form-based code district is receiving input from stakeholders and the public on the design elements that will be included in the code for the IDEA Commons. The Department of Planning and Development is hosting a week-long design charrette starting Tuesday evening. Three of the sessions will be open to the general public. The first public session will be an introduction to the IDEA Commons plan and the form-based code. The second public session, held during the First Friday Art Walk, will be an opportunity for the public to comment on design ideas generated at the stakeholder design sessions. The final public session, on the following Thursday evening, will be a presentation of the design recommendations for the IDEA Commons. The public session times are:

- **Introductory Session:** 6:30-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 31, Butler Rosenbury & Partners, 319 N. Main Ave., 3rd Floor Community Room
- **First Friday Art Walk Open House:** 6-9 p.m., Friday, Sept. 3, 331 S. Campbell Ave. (former Well Fed Head building)
- **Concluding Session:** 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 9, Butler Rosenbury & Partners, 319 N. Main Ave., 3rd Floor Community Room

There will be two stakeholder design sessions on Wednesday and Friday. Property owners in the IDEA Commons and members of the local architecture, design and development communities have been invited to the stakeholder design sessions. The first design session will involve a walking tour of the IDEA Commons and an intense design activity focusing on four or five specific sites in the IDEA Commons. The second design session will have the design teams presenting their projects for comments from the other participants. The stakeholder session times are:

- **Design Session 1:** 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 1, Butler Rosenbury & Partners, 319 N. Main Ave., 3rd Floor Community Room
- **Design Session 2:** Noon-3 p.m., Friday, Sept. 3, Butler Rosenbury & Partners, 319 N. Main Ave., 3rd Floor Community Room

For more information, contact: Ralph Rognstad Jr., Director of Planning & Development, (417) 864-1031.