



WILDWOOD®

March 11, 2019

The Honorable City Council
City of Wildwood, Missouri
16860 Main Street
Wildwood, Missouri 63040

Re: Update on 'Better Together' Merger Plan (**Wards – All**)

Council Members:

Given the interest in the merger plan that is being proposed by a not-for-profit entity call Better Together, the Economic Development Manager, the City Attorney, and the Co-Interim City Administrators thought it would be appropriate to provide a bi-monthly update of information or other items collected in the two (2) week timeframe separating City Council meetings. This update is intended to be brief, provide bullet points of information, links to other information being offered throughout the merger areas, and attached important documents, if appropriate. Some of the updates reflect a busy time in the discussion of this topic, while others may not. However, to ensure, as the Mayor has stated on numerous occasions, the City is being proactive in this regard, the update will allow for the general and, in some instances, the more detailed information to be readily available or the locations where it can be found identified.

In the timeframe between February 25, 2019 and tonight's meeting, items of interest are as follows:

- a) The Co-Interim City Administrator, Steve Cross, provided an updated link to the City of Des Peres presentation on the merger plan via e-mail. The presentation can also be easily accessed by visiting the City of Des Peres website, where the presentation is part of its homepage under 'Spotlights.'
- b) The Co-Interim City Administrator, Steve Cross, has been collecting other municipalities' information about the impacts and positions on the merger. To date, the City has collected information from Crestwood (https://www.timesnewspapers.com/southcountytimes/crestwood-runs-numbers-on-city-county-merger-plan/article_0d03f712-35f7-11e9-aea1-5ba3a319a6ed.html), Des Peres, and Eureka.
- c) The merger plan is also generating a number of articles within the local press, which have included the following: City-county merger opponents get organized, look to raise \$2.5M (see attached article from Business Journal - <https://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/news/2019/03/05/city-county-merger-opponents-get-organized-look-to.html>); and Merger savings? 'Unknown,' but estimated to reach \$1B a year by 2032, auditor says (see attached article from Business Journal <https://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/news/2019/03/05/merger-savings-unknown-but-as-much-as-1b-a-year-by.html>).
- d) The "Better Together" organization has set forth a schedule of Town Hall meetings over the next four (4) weeks, which are identified below:
Town Hall at Carpenter's Hall
 - Thursday, March 14, 2019
 - 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM
 - Carpenter's Hall

- AT CAPACITY FOR THIS DATE AND WILL BE POSTING ADDITIONAL TOWN HALL OPPORTUNITIES SOON. WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOU JOINING US ON ANOTHER DAY

Town Hall at The Lodge at Des Peres

- Wednesday, March 20, 2019
- 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM
- The Lodge at Des Peres
- AT CAPACITY FOR THIS DATE AND WILL BE POSTING ADDITIONAL TOWN HALL OPPORTUNITIES SOON. WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOU JOINING US ON ANOTHER DAY.

Town Hall at Genesis Banquet Center

- Wednesday, March 27, 2019
- 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM
- Genesis Banquet Center
- AT CAPACITY FOR THIS DATE AND WILL BE POSTING ADDITIONAL TOWN HALL OPPORTUNITIES SOON. WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOU JOINING US ON ANOTHER DAY

Town Hall at LiUNA Event Center

- Wednesday, April 3, 2019
- 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM
- 4532 South Lindbergh Boulevard St. Louis, Missouri, 63127
- AT CAPACITY FOR THIS DATE AND WILL BE POSTING ADDITIONAL TOWN HALL OPPORTUNITIES SOON. WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOU JOINING US ON ANOTHER DAY

Town Hall at O'Fallon Park YMCA

- Thursday, April 11, 2019
- 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM
- 4343 West Florissant Avenue St. Louis, Missouri, 63107

- e) The 'Better Together' re-filed its petition with the Missouri Secretary of State's Office for the purposes of collecting signatures that would support a state-wide vote on this matter and is attached to this update report.
- f) The Municipal League of Metro St. Louis is finalizing its formal position on this matter and it is anticipated to release it the week of March 11, 2019. The Executive Director of the Municipal League of Metro St. Louis debated the merits of the merger plan on the radio recently and that discussion with an individual from 'Better Together' organization can be heard or watched here: https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/st-louis-municipal-league-to-debate-better-together-live-this/article_b191fc9e-b96b-53a3-baae-f24df399f75b.html.
- g) The Missouri Senate Rules Committee approved a proposal from Senator Gina Walsh to oppose a statewide vote on the proposal to merge St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and the 88 municipalities contained therein. Because this proposal is a resolution, SCR 1 would have no legal impact on whether there is eventually a statewide vote. (shared by the *Missouri Economic Development Council*)
- h) A new website has been shared to social media by local news outlets, recommending that Chesterfield and Wildwood move to St. Charles County - www.BetterinStCharlesCounty.com.
- i) The Co-Interim City Administrators are working with City Attorney Young and the Vandiver Group, the City's public relations firm, to prepare summaries of the merger plan as well, which can then be placed on the City's website and social media to provide information to Wildwood residents and others on this matter. The Executive Summary (draft) prepared by Vandiver Group was provided to City Council Members by Co-Interim City Administrator Cross on March 6, 2019.

If any of the City Council members should have comments or questions in this regard, please feel free to contact any of the aforementioned parties at (636) 458-0440. Thank you for your review of this information and input on the same.

Respectfully submitted,

CITY OF WILDWOOD

Steve Cross, Co-Interim City Administrator

Julian Jacquin, Economic Development Manager

Joe Vujnich, Co-Interim City Administrator

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor

John A. Young, City Attorney

Kathy Arnett, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks