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North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce  
Economic Development Activity Report  
Q3 2020

**A. Business Retention & Expansion**

Perform 8 business retention and expansion calls per month with NLR businesses or businesses opening a location, branch, or headquarters in NLR (see attachment I).

- 10 in July
- 7 in August
- 8 in September

For a total of 25 calls. See attachment.

**B. Workforce Education & Development Program**

School District

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, the monthly education meeting was held. In this meeting there was a lot of discussion around whether the schools would even be open physically in the fall.

July 7<sup>th</sup> marked the first community task force meeting for reopening the North Little Rock School safely in the fall. John Owens CEO of the Chamber served on the task force. The task force weighed in on the advantages and disadvantages of each option, virtual, in person or a blended option.

The task force continued to meet weekly through mid of August.

Ultimately in person and a virtual option were created in the NLR School district for the fall 2020 semester.

On August 19<sup>th</sup>, the monthly education committee meeting was held. Most of the meeting was focused on how school could open safely and what would the needs be of the district.

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, an additional monthly education meeting was held. In this meeting there was a lot of discussion around how the ALPS leadership program could be run during the 20/21 school year due to COVID-19. A subcommittee was formed to explore this for the ALPS leadership program. There was also discussion around the Arkansas Scholars program for 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and distributing information to those students that are still meeting the criteria.

Ford NGL

FILED \_\_\_\_\_ AM 3:30 PM  
BY email  
DATE 9-18-20  
Diana Wilbey, City Clerk and Collector  
North Little Rock, Arkansas  
RECEIVED by \_\_\_\_\_

During the quarter numerous meetings were held to identify the specific academies that would be offered in the North Little Rock School District. As of the writing of this report all the academies have not been finalized.

### **C. ALPS High School Leadership Program**

The ALPS program is on hold due to COVID-19.

### **D. Site Selection Websites Administration**

Provided services as requested.

### **E. Office Space**

All office space deliverables were fulfilled at 100 Main Street, North Little Rock, AR, 72114.

### **F. Technology and Website**

All requirements met.

### **G. Participate in Economic Development Activity**

#### *Economic Development*

Played active role on the annexation of 450 acres on the eastern side of city to create sites for potential new businesses. Worked with planning commission on rezoning the property to accommodate needs of prospects.

Played an active role in recruiting several large national companies that are relocating to NLR.

#### *Metro Little Rock Alliance*

Attended weekly MLRA meetings in an effort to change marketing message and update website. Provided Mangan Holcomb Partners with photos and videos of North Little Rock to be used in the campaign.

### **H. COVID-19 Outreach Program**

In the third quarter of 2020 businesses continued to struggle from COVID-19. The chamber continued to help small businesses find face coverings and hand sanitizer.

We also started a program where each week 4 NLR Businesses were highlighted by a video that was created and put on the chamber's website.

### **I. Census**

The chamber played an active role in promoting the 2020 Census. Signs were placed at local businesses, videos were created, and meetings were organized.

# Attachment I

## Business Expansion and Retention Calls NLR Chamber

### July

<u>7/14/2020</u>	<u>Today's Power</u> <u>Tru Service Community</u>	Michael Henderson	President
<u>7/16/2020</u>	<u>Credit</u>	Linda Jeffery	President
<u>7/22/2020</u>	<u>Wave Taco</u>	Brian Williams	Owner
<u>7/22/2020</u>	<u>JLL</u> <u>Panattoni Development</u>	Matt Powers	Executive VP
<u>7/27/2020</u>	<u>Company, Inc.</u>	Scott Abott	Sr Development Officer
<u>7/28/2020</u>	<u>NLR Junior League</u> <u>Argenta Wealth</u>	Dr Ruby Ben	President
<u>7/28/2020</u>	<u>Management</u>	John Gaudin	CEO
<u>7/30/2020</u>	<u>Sergitage</u> <u>Rockwater Development</u>	Arsean Maqami	Vice President
<u>7/31/2020</u>	<u>Corp</u>	Lisa Ferrel	CEO
<u>7/31/2020</u>	<u>St Joseph's Center</u>	Sandy Decoursey	Diector

### August

<u>8/4/2020</u>	<u>PorchLight Realty</u>	Stacy Riley Gretchin and Daniel Jackson	Office Manager Owners
<u>8/7/2020</u>	<u>Beyond Sound &amp; Security</u>		
<u>8/11/2020</u>	<u>Recycled Bikes for Kids</u> <u>Nana's Organix Grocery</u>	Ron King	Director
<u>8/12/2020</u>	<u>Store</u>	Amanda Wilson	Owner
<u>8/14/2020</u>	<u>Daniel Label &amp; Printing</u>	Irv & Mark Danie	Owners
<u>8/25/2020</u>	<u>Wyndham</u>	Becky Lewis	General Manager
<u>8/27/2020</u>	<u>Colonial Life</u>	Matt Roberts	Owner

### September

<u>9/1/2020</u>	<u>Sharp Cleaning</u>	Caitlin Bailey	Owner
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<u>9/3/2020</u>	<u>Edward Jones</u>	Cody Dertow	Owner
<u>9/4/2020</u>	<u>The Popcorn Spot</u>	Tracy Conners	Owner
<u>9/9/2020</u>	<u>Nabholz Construction</u>	Joel Blansett	Owner
<u>9/9/2020</u>	<u>Branded Media</u>	Hayden Cherry	Owner
<u>9/18/2020</u>	<u>Supreme Hair &amp; Beauty</u>	Khalid Alkam	Owner
<u>9/22/2020</u>	<u>PHD Day Spa</u>	Andi Stracner	Owner
<u>9/24/2020</u>	<u>NLR Rotary</u>	Bear Davidson	Chairman