



For Immediate Release  
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## **MacArthur Boulevard Business Association Reaches 100 Members**

The MacArthur Boulevard Business Association (MBBA), an organization formed in 2007 to help promote the revitalization of the MacArthur area, has reached its initial goal of 100 members. The group includes local business owners and neighbors who have a connection to the area that stretches from South Grand to the Wabash curve. The MBBA was initially formed in response to plans to connect Interstate 72 to MacArthur, in an attempt to maximize the extension as an economic generator and to address the challenges that face the current MacArthur corridor.

The MBBA takes an active role in efforts to attract new businesses to the area, as well as assisting existing businesses who want to redevelop their properties. The MBBA is also involved with beautification efforts and will sponsor a clean up day on May 3, in addition to encouraging businesses to landscape their properties with the "Plant Red" theme.

On a larger scale, the MBBA is working with elected officials to spearhead efforts to limit the number of payday loan stores in the City of Springfield. With such a large number of payday loan facilities currently located in the MacArthur area, the MBBA has concerns that their presence may be detrimental when it comes to attracting new businesses.

The MBBA also works closely with the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, the Office of Planning & Economic Development, and the City of Springfield on issues pertaining to redevelopment of the MacArthur corridor. Currently, the MBBA is in the process of creating a comprehensive plan to address the types of businesses that will be targeted for the area. In addition, the MBBA continues to pursue redevelopment opportunities for the former Esquire theatre property as well as the former Kmart building, in addition to seeking grant money that could be earmarked for infrastructure improvements and streetscapes.

For those who would like to learn more about the work of the MBBA, a Friends of MacArthur Mixer will be held on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 5-8p.m. at the Dublin Pub, located in the Town & Country Shopping Center. The cost of the Mixer is \$5 per person.

The general membership meetings of the MBBA take place on the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 a.m. at the American Red Cross building on Outer Park Drive. Membership applications are also available through the MBBA website, [www.shoponmacarthur.com](http://www.shoponmacarthur.com)