



March 20, 2008

**Ald. Terry L. Witkowski
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Economic Development Summit Yields Strong Interest, Collaborative Efforts

Last Friday's Economic Development Summit drew a crowd of more than 40 people, including multiple representatives of state and local governments, municipal representatives from St. Francis, South Milwaukee, Oak Creek, Franklin, Greenfield and Milwaukee, and private industry and community supporters. "I am very impressed by the turnout and dedication demonstrated by all those interested in the airport area. It's very clear this group is ready to make a collaborative effort to take advantage of the opportunity the Mitchell International Airport provides," Ald. Terry L. Witkowski said.

The meeting yielded a 15-member steering committee charged with outlining a structure that will maximize airport area development. At the top of the list includes funding a study to evaluate how other communities redeveloped their airport regions to become business centers, drawing both national and international companies to the area. The group is also working with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Center for Urban Initiatives and Research, who facilitated the meeting and will continue to work with the group.

The airport area has already solicited keen interest and investment from hotels and the hospitality industry. Ald. Witkowski said, "We welcome the hospitality industry but also look forward to using the asset Mitchell International Airport is to entice company headquarters and other business facilities to locate in the area."

The steering committee will continue to investigate how to develop the airport area for the long term and plans to meet May 2, 2008 in Cudahy.