

GREATER GASTON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION & GASTON REGIONAL CHAMBER ANNOUNCE INTENT TO MERGE

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GASTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA – On Wednesday, May 20, 2020 the Greater Gaston Development Corporation (GGDC) & the Gaston Regional Chamber of Commerce (GRC) announced their intent to merge the two organizations. The resulting combined entity will be positioned to shape, influence, and fuel a coordinated public/private economic development engine for Gaston County.

Since last fall, executive leaders from the GGDC and GRC have been exploring the merits of this merger. Each group's unique organizational strengths and expertise, as well as proven compatibility, demonstrated a clear opportunity to converge around a united purpose and strategic focus. The combined enterprise will be outcome-driven, achieving results through an emphasis on communications & marketing, advocacy, workforce development, and business support.

In a joint statement, GRC Chairman Chris Peek and GGDC Chairman Greg Botner stated, "The Gaston business community has long deserved unity among economic development partners to drive value for Gaston County businesses and citizens. In recent years, the GGDC and the Gaston Regional Chamber have enjoyed a positive partnership and a strong working relationship. This merger represents the strategic alignment and bold private sector action necessary to advance Gaston County's economic vitality."

After completing a period of additional due diligence, the boards of both organizations are expected to vote at the end of the summer on officially merging the two organizations.

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ABOUT THE GGDC: The GGDC is a private sector led non-profit corporation, formed in 2014 for the sole purpose of strengthening factors influencing Gaston County's economic competitiveness. The organization serves as a leader, catalyst, convener, and facilitator of strategic initiatives designed to unite and align public, private, and non-profit entities behind a pro-growth agenda.

ABOUT THE GASTON REGIONAL CHAMBER: The GRC, organized in 1913, is a member organization with a vision of being a catalyst for business growth, convener of leaders and influencers, and champion for a thriving community. In striving to realize its mission of championing economic prosperity for its members and the Gaston County community, the GRC remains active on many fronts, including economic development, regional initiatives, partner benefits and services, quality of life enhancements, and business advocacy.