



News Release

For Immediate Release

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## **Slim Chickens celebrates Groundbreaking at Williston Square**

Williston, N.D. - A groundbreaking ceremony was held Tuesday, September 21, for the first new business to settle into Williston Square. The celebration for Slim Chickens was attended by restaurant and City of Williston officials.

"We are excited to have Slim Chickens break ground at Williston Square," said Williston Economic Development Executive Director Shawn Wenko. "This is a significant milestone because they are the first of many businesses that will build here."

Williston Square is an 800-acre development on the former site of the Sloulin Field International Airport. The new development offers convenient access to Highway 2, existing restaurants and stores, the Williston Municipal Golf Course, plus parks and established residential neighborhoods.

"We are very proud and honored to be one of the first businesses in Williston Square," said Mike Sartwell, President and CEO of Preferred Restaurant Group Inc.

The Slim Chickens franchise in North Dakota and Montana is owned and operated by Preferred Restaurant Group Inc. of Minot. The firm is also a Taco John's franchisee. The group currently owns and operates 14 Taco John's restaurants, including the one in Williston, and they own four Slim Chickens restaurants in Helena, MT and Minot, Williston and Fargo, ND. The locations in Williston and Fargo are currently under construction.

"We've been in Williston a very long time (with their Taco John's restaurant)," There are a lot of communities we could have gone into, but we chose to go into Williston," said Sartwell.

A permit for the Williston site was issued by the City of Williston on August 31, 2021. The 3,430 square foot building will offer two drive-throughs and dine-in seating.

"Slim Chickens is doing extremely well and there are a few of us (owners) who are taking extra steps and adding additional things to our buildings to better-serve our customers during these challenging times," said Sartwell.

Construction is expected to wrap up in December 2021 with a grand opening happening sometime in early 2022.

The Slim Chickens menu offers chicken tenders, wings, 17 different house sauces, a signature Cayenne Ranch chicken sandwich, fresh salads, authentic sides, iced teas and lemonade.

Slim Chickens was founded in Fayetteville, Arkansas, in 2003.