



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 12, 2023

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PORTLAND MAYOR ANNOUNCES “PRESERVING PORTLAND,” A COMMUNITY-WIDE EFFORT TO PLAN FOR CITY’S FUTURE

Portland Tenn. --- Today, the City of Portland Mayor Mike Callis announced the kick-off of Preserving Portland, an initiative to engage residents and stakeholders in shaping a vision for the city’s future. Input received through this process will inform the development of a comprehensive plan for the City of Portland. The first opportunity for the public to participate will be on Tuesday, May 23, at the Richland Park Gym.

“I am excited to hear from residents and businesses about their ideas for our future,” said Mayor Mike Callis. “A comprehensive plan is an important document that will position us to address long-term infrastructure and other city needs. Engaging our community in this process is important to ensure we develop a plan that reflects who the city is and will be in the future.”

Located between two growing counties, the City of Portland has experienced a 56 percent population growth since 2000 and is the third fastest-growing municipality in Sumner County. Determining where residents will live, work, and attend school is vital to the city’s comprehensive plan. The city’s planning department is leading an all-inclusive approach to preparing for anticipated growth by seeking to understand the needs and desires of residents and the business community. In addition, it provides an opportunity to coordinate infrastructure plans and investments with Sumner and Robertson Counties. Input received throughout this process will inform recommendations for land use policies, economic development strategies, open space priorities, and capital improvement programs aimed at addressing traffic congestion, local school capacity, and other government services and utilities.

The Preserving Portland comprehensive plan kick-off event will be held on Tuesday, May 23, from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about current planning efforts and share their ideas with local leaders. Formal remarks from the mayor will begin at 6 p.m.

Representatives will be at this weekend’s Strawberry Festival to provide information on the initiative and additional opportunities for engagement will follow the kick-off event. There will also be ways to provide input through an online survey for those who cannot attend a meeting.

The city has partnered with Middle Tennessee’s regional planning and economic development agency, the Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC), to help conduct community engagement, analyze emerging trends, and pursue opportunities for state and federal grants to aid in the plan’s

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implementation. GNRC is co-owned and operated by the municipal and county governments across the mid-State. For more information about the planning effort or upcoming events, visit PreservingPortland.org

Comprehensive Plan Kick-Off Event

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Richland Park Gym

303 Portland Blvd.

Portland, Tennessee

ABOUT GNRC:

The Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC or Regional Council) is a public agency created through the Tennessee Development District Act of 1965 by the TN General Assembly. GNRC is a regional planning and economic development agency whose membership includes city and county governments across 13 counties in Middle Tennessee. The Regional Council administers various state and federal grant programs on behalf of local governments. It offers economic and community development services, policy and planning assistance, and aging and disability resources to its member communities. More information is available at GNRC.org.

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