



Community Leaders Launch “Touchdown Arlington” Campaign Advocates Want Bears Development to Become Reality and Grow Economy

Arlington Heights, IL (APRIL 25, 2023)– A grassroots coalition of Arlington Heights community leaders and business owners are launching Touchdown Arlington, a local effort that will advocate to make Arlington Heights the permanent home of the Chicago Bears.

Touchdown Arlington is made up of local residents and business owners who want to work collaboratively with the Chicago Bears, elected officials and most importantly community members to make this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity a win-win for the Arlington Heights community and the Chicago Bears. The group says the development promises to boost the region’s economic engine, create thousands of jobs and generate millions of dollars in future tax revenues for Arlington Heights, the region and our schools.

Some of the Coalition members have met with the Chicago Bears to learn about the project’s details and explore opportunities to collaborate with a community-driven approach. The Coalition believes they can bridge the communication gap, advocate for the community and create a winning team to better the future of the region.

Touchdown Arlington is planning to invite the Bears to join a larger event with coalition members and other Arlington Heights business owners, residents and civic organizations.

“The Chicago Bears’ development can be a giant boost to the village and its businesses. It can also bring needed infrastructure and new jobs,” said coalition leader Holly Connors, founding agent and Senior Real Estate Broker of @properties Christies International Real Estate and owner of GetBurbed, a real estate team in Arlington Heights. “We are committed to working with everyone who has a stake in this opportunity to come together and find the right balance to make this project become reality and better the future of the Northwest Suburbs.”

“Business owners across the state are still struggling to recover from the pandemic, and our community is being presented with a unique opportunity to infuse new energy and opportunity for all those who live and work in the village,” said coalition member Argie Karafotias, owner of Golden Brunch restaurant in Arlington Heights.

“We simply cannot afford to let this chance pass us by and allow another municipality to reap the benefits,” said fellow coalition member Drew Bulson, Senior Development Manager of real estate development firm Ketone Partners.

Attorney Ernest Rose, Managing Partner of Drost Kivlahan McMahon & O’Connor, LLC said the Bears’ proposed development is an opportunity for the community to come together for the greater good of Arlington Heights. “If our local and state government leaders, business community, and our residents can come together, we can deliver the biggest economic development win in the history of the state and the Midwest region. That’s why we have formed this coalition.”

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The coalition also says the project will strengthen the fabric of Arlington Heights and the Northwest Suburban region.

“Creating jobs and economic opportunity strengthens a community and their ability to uplift and care for its vulnerable members across all age groups and builds a strong, inclusionary infrastructure,” said coalition member, Palatine resident Amy Philpott; Co-Founder of Gerry’s Café, 2015 Arlington Heights Chamber of Commerce Past President and local real estate broker.

Michelle Gambro, founder and owner of Lollipop Balloon Co. said, “Arlington Heights is a community of great people who have always come together in the past to achieve big things—from hosting international sporting events to reinvigorating our downtown business district. Now is the time to pull together again.”

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/TouchdownArlington> to learn more or join the coalition’s effort.

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