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News Release

SONIC DRIVE-IN SHOWS INTEREST IN WEST CARROLLTON SITE

WEST CARROLLTON, Ohio – Representatives from Sonic Corp., a national chain of drive-in restaurants, attended the Dec. 11 West Carrollton City Council meeting to talk to officials about their desire to locate a new restaurant at 881 E. Dixie Drive across from the new élé Cake Co. development.

The Sonic representatives indicated their interest to build several new restaurants in the Miami Valley area. However, no restaurants would be built closer than five miles from the proposed West Carrollton location.

The two closest Sonic Drive-In restaurants are located at 7711 Hoke Road in Englewood and 3607 Dixie Highway in Franklin, Ohio.

Current West Carrollton city zoning for the site does not allow for a drive-up restaurant. Acceptance of the proposed restaurant would require a change in city zoning regulations.

Some concerns were expressed about whether a Sonic restaurant would be consistent with the “City-Center” concept that the city has proposed for the area.

“The question is ‘does the city want to divert from the more pedestrian-oriented, traditional City-Center concept that was originally desired for this site?’” said Jeff Bothwell, interim economic development director. “Or will this type of development act as a catalyst to jump start redevelopment in the whole area?”

Kelly Gray, realtor from Flagel Realty, said that the proposed restaurant would make a positive impact and bring additional energy to the former Woody’s market area that is currently under redevelopment. “It also brings back a sense of nostalgia with the Sonic concept that includes carhops on rollerskates,” she said.

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“It would also probably be the only Sonic restaurant within a five-mile radius, so it would definitely bring people from other communities to the area,” she said.

City council tabled the discussion for future consideration.

Sonic, headquartered in Oklahoma City, Okla., has more than 3,200 drive-ins coast to coast and in Mexico. For more information, see www.sonicdrivein.com.

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For media interviews, call **Kelly Gray**, Flagel Realty, at (937) 470-3002. Call **Jeff Bothwell** at (937) 847-4643.