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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **City of Abilene to Convene Inaugural Business Summit**

**January 4, 2013** - The City of Abilene, Kansas, in partnership with Dickinson County, will convene an inaugural Business Summit to present a draft community-wide Economic Development Plan. The summit is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Thursday, January 31, 2013 and will be held at the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum's Visitor Center Auditorium located at 200 SE 4th Street in Abilene, Kansas.

The Business Summit was an idea that came out of several meetings between the City of Abilene, Dickinson County, the Abilene Area Chamber of Commerce, the Abilene Downtown Association, and the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau. These entities have been discussing the future of Abilene's "business-support" organizations and felt that a community-wide approach is necessary for ultimate success.

Mayor Dennis Weishaar stated, "All of our community's businesses have the same vested interest as residents and government agencies... to build a prosperous community. The Business Summit will seek to develop a unified vision of prosperity for the community." The purpose of the Business Summit will be to present an overview of a draft Economic Development Plan and allow the business community and other interested stakeholders to comment on it.

All business leaders in Dickinson County and other interested stakeholders are invited to participate in the Business Summit.

City Manager David Dillner says that the inaugural Business Summit will improve communications between the City and its business partners. "The inaugural Business Summit will facilitate the development of a plan for Abilene's continued prosperity. Future summits will provide a mechanism of accountability for the implementation of the final plan and allow business and government agencies to communicate on issues affecting the local economy." Summits are planned to be held bi-annually to release new or updated information pertinent to the business community and to update stakeholders on the progress of the plan's implementation.

The City will release the draft Economic Development Plan on the City's website at [www.abilenecityhall.com/edplan](http://www.abilenecityhall.com/edplan) for public review at 12:00 pm on January 24, 2013. Following the Business Summit, the City will allow a 30-day comment period to provide the community with time to review the plan and provide comments. All comments and feedback provided by participants will be considered prior to the final plan's formal endorsement by the City of Abilene and Dickinson County.

Information about economic development in the City of Abilene may be found online at: [www.abilenecityhall.com/ecodevo](http://www.abilenecityhall.com/ecodevo). Questions regarding the inaugural Business Summit may be directed to City Manager David Dillner at (785) 263-2550.

