



Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Fuquay-Varina Announces New Town Hall and Police Department Coming in 2019

Town Hall will come full circle returning to downtown Fuquay-Varina in early 2019 with the approved purchase by the Town Board of the Bob Barker Company Headquarters facility located at 134 N. Main Street and 120 E. Jones Street. Fuquay-Varina's original Town Hall was located on Fuquay Avenue and is now home to the Licensing Office of the NCDMV and the Fuquay-Varina History Museum.

The current Town Hall, located at 401 Old Honeycutt Road, was constructed in the late 1980's. In the past 30 years, the town's population has grown from 4,500 to almost 27,000 making it one of the fastest growing towns in North Carolina. In response to transformational growth and increased service demands, town staff has also grown to 230 full-time employees. The new Town Hall in downtown will nearly double the current work space from 14,200 SF to 29,865 SF and provide 100 parking spaces.

Fuquay-Varina Mayor John W. Byrne said, "I am excited that last night's action by the Town Board will result in the Town Hall being re-located to downtown. This has been a goal and objective that the Town Board has been discussing and planning for more than two years. The Board's vision has been to provide employees with a work environment that meets the needs of our growing community." Mayor Byrne added, "When the current Town Hall was built around 1987, the Town of Fuquay-Varina had 57 employees and the population of the Town was just over 4,000 people. In 30 years, the population has grown by over 500% while the employee base has grown by only half that amount. Our staff continues to work harder and more efficiently to provide quality service to the residents and businesses in the community; the numbers speak for themselves and certainly represent the need for additional office space to meet the to growing demand."

The Town Hall Building on Old Honeycutt Road will be repurposed and renovated into the Fuquay Varina Police Department. Currently, the Police Department operates in a 6,400 SF building originally constructed as a post office. The relocation of the police facilities to the current Town Hall location will more than double its operating capacity. The current Police Department parking lot and building footprint has been included in the Town's downtown mixed-use project and will ultimately be demolished once construction begins on the mixed-use project.

The proposed relocation of the Town Hall Building to downtown will take place as the Town embarks on a transformational \$40 million downtown mixed-use project that will include up to 250 new market rate apartments, 25,000 SF of new retail space and a new parking structure. Additionally, the Town is currently under construction on the Arts Center project, a 19,000 SF facility dedicated to visual and performing arts. The Arts Center, previously a Belk Department Store, will feature a 300+ seat theater, art and dance studios, an art gallery and classrooms for creative programming to meet the increased demand by citizens for participation in the arts. The relocation of the Police Department to the current Town Hall Building allows for the ability to design a new law enforcement facility with a plan for future expansion to accommodate future operational needs.

The purchase price for the Bob Barker Company headquarters is \$3,980,000. Construction and renovation of both the new Town Hall and Police Station is expected to cost \$4,250,000 and take 8-10 months to complete.

Through a lease agreement with the Town, the Bob Barker Company will remain in the downtown location through June 2018 and then relocate to their 7625 Purfoy Road manufacturing facility. The company anticipates the cost of their new corporate headquarters to be equal or greater than their current headquarters building which will continue to contribute to the Town's commercial tax base.

“The Bob Barker Company has been an excellent corporate partner and has added significant value to the Town’s business climate over the years,” said Mayor Byrne. “I appreciate that the Barker family desires to grow and expand their business in Fuquay-Varina and sees the building of a new corporate headquarters and repurposing of their existing headquarters as an opportunity for all parties involved.”

“The undertaking of these projects demonstrates the Town's commitment to provide quality services and amenities to Fuquay-Varina's residents and business community,” said Town Manager Adam Mitchell. “Office space has become a growing challenge as the Town has added human capital needed to provide high quality services to our growing community. I appreciate the Town Board for acknowledging the importance of facilities that position our employees to be successful and I am encouraged that the opportunity has presented itself for the Town Hall and Police Department to locate in space that is twice the size of their respective footprints. I am also thrilled that Town Hall will once again reside in the downtown district.”

Attached: Photo of Bob Barker Building