THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO

HOME OF THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

PRESS RELEASE   **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Springfield Innovation Center Groundbreaking Ceremony

Springfield, MA – Mayor Domenic J. Sarno joined DevelopSpringfield and local partners to officially break ground on the Springfield Innovation Center. The project, conceived as a dynamic, mixed-use center of entrepreneurial activity will serve as the cornerstone of downtown Springfield's Innovation District.

"This continues my administration's efforts in collaborating with public and private partners to bring a more eclectic mix to our downtown. Thank you to all these partners, especially Marty Jones at Mass Development. She's been great in thinking 'outside the box' with our economic development projects," said Mayor Sarno.

DevelopSpringfield recently acquired two buildings in the Innovation District and is currently renovating them for use as a business accelerator for businesses to pitch ideas, host mentoring activities, networking events and more.

The district builds on the legacy of the area's 19th century history of industry and innovation, a wealth of architecturally significant historic buildings, proximity to Union Station - which is undergoing an $80 million renovation - and close proximity to the downtown core.

The Springfield Innovation Center is a collaboration between DevelopSpringfield, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, the City of Springfield, MassDevelopment, Valley Venture Mentors and Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company.

Funding to support the development of this project is provided by the Commonwealth through a MassWorks Infrastructure Program grant to MassDevelopment, MassMutual, the Beveridge Family Foundation, the Berkshire Bank Foundation, the Charles E. Hall Foundation and DevelopSpringfield.

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