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From: David Powers  
Communications Director  
708.358.5781

Contact: Michael Chen  
Development Services Department  
708.358.5640

**Village, Berwyn Officials Discuss Cooperation on Roosevelt Road Development**

Village officials met Thursday night with representatives of the City of Berwyn to discuss ways to work together to maximize economic development opportunities along the Roosevelt Road corridor shared by the two communities.

The meeting, the first between representatives of the two communities in recent memory, focused on an economic study of Roosevelt Road set to begin. Funded by a state grant the Village helped Berwyn to acquire, the study will identify the corridor's assets and create a plan to market them as potential development opportunities.

"Communities sharing common borders need to work together to create and nurture opportunities for improvements that will benefit both," said Village Manager Carl Swenson. "We are looking forward to a good, objective study of the assets and needs of this important shared corridor."

Thursday's meeting between officials of the two communities focused on the approach of the study to be conducted by Farr & Associates, a Chicago architectural and planning firm. Additional meetings will be scheduled to gather input from business owners and others interested in the redevelopment of Roosevelt Road.

Michael Chen, the Village's director of Development Services, called the meeting a get-to-know-each-other gathering that set the stage for building a strong relationship with the community's closest neighbor to the south.

"Roosevelt Road is an important gateway to the Village, but what happens on either side of road impacts both communities," he said. "By establishing a relationship with a neighbor we can create an ongoing dialog that will have us working together for mutual benefit."

Chen said Roosevelt Road, like Madison St., poses certain economic development challenges. Studies such as the one planned can help focus resources where they will likely be the most effective, he said.

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