
DEKALB COUNTY

W. Burrell Ellis, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer



NEWS RELEASE

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OCTOBER 13, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CEO ELLIS STATEMENT ON GENERAL MOTORS PLANT

DECATUR – DeKalb County CEO Burrell Ellis issued the following statement today regarding the closed General Motors plant located in Doraville:

In the summer of 2008, the Doraville General Motors automobile plant closed its doors. As a result of this closure, 4000 jobs were lost and a 165 acre tract of land became idle and nonproductive. This was a major economic blow to DeKalb County, both in terms of lost employment and the county's tax base.

For several months, DeKalb County has been engaged in discussions with GM and other stakeholders regarding the redevelopment of this site. Our primary interests have been clear – to pursue a redevelopment strategy for this site that would help us create jobs, to revitalize the area and surrounding communities that were impacted by the closure, and to add to the county's tax base.

We have engaged in discussions regarding a variety of redevelopment proposals for this site. Several of those proposals involve mixed-use developments including retail, residential, commercial, and recreational facilities. At this stage, these proposals are conceptual and no final decisions regarding the use of the site have been made.

After today's executive session of the Board of Commissioners, we received several inquiries speculating that the county had taken action to acquire the GM property. While I am legally prohibited from discussing actions taken in executive session, today's session was conducted in accordance with the law and neither the acquisition of property nor the expenditure of public funds occurred. My ongoing commitment to the citizens of DeKalb is to conduct the county's business in an open and transparent fashion. Accordingly, when the time comes for decisions to be made regarding the GM project, there will be full compliance with open meeting requirements.

GM previously indicated their intention to sell the property to a third-party developer prior to December 31, 2008. To date, GM has not sold the property. Therefore, DeKalb County intends to continue working with GM to encourage the responsible and progressive redevelopment of the site in order to return this tract of land to productive economic use.

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