



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 19, 2010

**CBC SUPPORTS CHESTERFIELD'S AGREEMENT WITH SPORTSQUEST**

Richmond, VA – The Chesterfield Business Council of the Greater Richmond Chamber issued the following statement:

"The Chesterfield Business Council of the Greater Richmond Chamber (CBC) supports Chesterfield County Administration, Chesterfield County Economic Development, the Chesterfield County Economic Authority and the Board of Supervisors' efforts to generate positive Economic Development throughout the County. At this time, the CBC supports Chesterfield County working with the organization known as SportsQuest as part of this positive economic development.

The relationship contains an agreement that will use resources previously committed to similar improvements (appropriated CIP funds) or those normally relegated to this type of project (such as occupancy tax reimbursements) to secure a 20 year lease on 8 rectangular, synthetic turf, lighted fields (soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, flag football, etc.), a 40,000 square foot practice area, 2 full length or 4 practice sized basketball courts and 10,000 square feet of space for a senior center. The impact of this investment will give County residents access to state-of-the-art facilities which it would otherwise be unable to afford. Other aspects of the endeavor are focused primarily on the Economic Development necessities of such agreements. Additionally, SportsQuest meets the County's larger, more important goal of promoting economic development and the more specific goal of bolstering the presence of sports tourism.

Representatives of the CBC have met with County Administration, members of the Board of Supervisors and Economic Development. Further research was conducted and a representative of a local soccer organization was contacted to help identify questions and to provide background. The work these organizations have done in past years is truly appreciated by the CBC and it is part of what makes this area a great place to live. The CBC recognizes and appreciates the concerns of some county citizens and competing entities. However, our research provides us with a confidence that the County has conducted due diligence on this project and is in a position of minimal exposure. By leveraging the agreement with SportsQuest, the county will receive the use of the aforementioned facilities which, by estimates, would have cost the county a significantly larger amount to construct under traditional methods.

Upon completion the project stands to generate 400+ jobs and significant tax revenue. The CBC recognizes that projects of this nature are very valuable to a community, assuming there isn't a looming detriment involved, and in this case there does not appear to be. SportsQuest is local to Chesterfield and they already utilize local firms (particularly in Chesterfield) for their services. Much excitement exists in the business community regarding this project.

The CBC supports and encourages Chesterfield's entry into this agreement with SportsQuest. Near term impact, long term economic development, job creation and existence of the SportsQuest facilities will only help to enhance the County's quality of life. We encourage others in the business community to recognize the importance of development and partnerships in today's economy and to join us in support of this endeavor to help ensure its success."

**About the Business Councils:**

The Greater Richmond Chamber manages four area councils within the Greater Richmond Region - Chesterfield, Hanover and Henrico counties and the city of Richmond. Each of Business Councils works to identify and address issues related to their respective communities and the regional business community.

**About the Chamber:**

Since 1867, the Greater Richmond Chamber ([www.GRCC.com](http://www.GRCC.com)) has taken the lead to enhance and institute change in the Richmond Region, making the region an ideal location for businesses to prosper. The Chamber, a not-for-profit business membership association with more than 1,500 members and a professional staff of 24, is a catalyst for business development and the voice of business in Greater Richmond.

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