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CITY OF TUCUMCARI PRESS RELEASE

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TUCUMCARI MAINSTREET PREPS FOR MAKEOVER

Great Blocks and Metropolitan Redevelopment Area Projects Continue Progress

Tucumcari, NM, 1BFebruary 10, 2017–

The Tucumcari Mainstreet District has been receiving an abundance of attention recently. The City in cooperation with Tucumcari Mainstreet has been working on two major projects to improve the distressed district.

In July of 2015, the City adopted a resolution designating the majority of the downtown as a Metropolitan Redevelopment District. This designation allows the City to utilize the tools in the Metropolitan Redevelopment Act (MRA) to improve the district upon implementation of a MRA plan. The City applied to the NM Finance Authority and received a \$50,000 planning grant in April 2016 to complete the MRA Plan. The main focus of the MRA plan is to revitalize blighted areas through public and private partnerships.

Albuquerque planning firm Sites Southwest was selected to complete the MRA plan. Sites Southwest held three public meetings to gather input from citizens and develop strategies to revitalize the area. A draft plan has been completed and is available for public review at www.plantucumcari.com. The City will hold a public hearing regarding the plan at its February 23rd meeting and will hold a second public hearing and consider adoption of the plan at its March 23rd meeting.

In addition to the MRA project, Tucumcari Mainstreet applied for and received \$70,000 in funding through the NM Mainstreet Great Blocks Program. The focus of the Great Blocks program is to develop pedestrian access, façade improvements, and streetscape improvements. The project focuses on a three block area, which includes Main Street from First Street to Third Street and Second Street from Main to Center Street.

The City has contracted with Consensus Planning to complete the project. Currently two stakeholder meetings have been held to develop preliminary plans for the project, and Tucumcari Mainstreet will be

hosting a public meeting on February 13th at 5:30 pm at the Tucumcari Convention Center. The public meeting will give citizens the opportunity to review the draft designs and provide their input prior to finalizing the project. The end product of the Great Blocks project will be shovel ready construction documents that the City can utilize to implement the improvements.

“We are very excited about the improvements to our downtown area and grateful for the support offered through the Economic Development Department and New Mexico Mainstreet”, stated Mayor Ruth Ann Litchfield “I encourage all of our citizens to attend the public meetings and voice their vision for the Downtown area”.

In 2016 Tucumcari received over \$200,000 in assistance through New Mexico Mainstreet. This assistance included grant funding for the Great Blocks Project and the MRA plan, a feasibility study of rehabilitating the Princess Theater, professional development training, a \$50,000 Local Economic Development grant to replace the roof on the Historic Odeon Theater, and online marketing assistance.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Jared Langenegger at 575-461-5996 or email at manager@cityoftucumcari.com.