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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Chamber Endorses Issue 17 – Akron City Income Tax

The Greater Akron Chamber Board of Directors voted at the March 15, 2007 meeting to support Issue 17, a one-third of one percent (0.33%) Akron City Income Tax levy. Mayor Donald Plusquellic asked the Board for their support and presented his plan for the revenue generated by the levy.

The income from the levy will be used for hiring, training and equipping police officers, improving neighborhoods, keeping and creating jobs, addressing flood problems, and operating community learning centers in off-school hours.

The Mayor made a compelling case for more investment in economic development projects and adding infrastructure to the land bank so the City will be able to act quickly when a business wants to locate in Akron. He also cited the increased burden that local communities face from dwindling investments in localities by the state and federal governments.

Akron has not had a city income tax increase for 26 years. Several years ago, Akron voters supported an income tax increase that was targeted for investment in the Akron Public Schools' building initiative.

The Greater Akron Chamber Board cited the Mayor's responsible handling of funds and the City's leadership in investing in economic development as the reasons for supporting Issue 17 on the May ballot. Board members also noted that targeting half of the funds for direct economic development needs for the City will allow Akron to continue to be the hub of business activity in Northeast Ohio.

The Greater Akron Chamber encourages members to vote yes on Issue 17. If you have any questions, please contact Connie Krauss, Vice President of Government Affairs, at (330) 237-1243 or krauss@greaterakronchamber.org.

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The mission of the Greater Akron Chamber is to promote economic development to benefit the people of the Greater Akron Region.