



MICHAEL S. YENNI

Mayor

CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CEO OF GNO, INC. SEES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR KENNER

Kenner, LA. – Kenner is poised to take advantage of the remarkable economic overhaul that is currently transforming the metropolitan New Orleans area as a whole into a destination location for industries and young professionals, according to Michael Hecht, president and CEO of Greater New Orleans, Inc.

Hecht said Kenner is undergoing a significant revitalization of its own under Mayor Michael Yenni, pointing to the excellent school choices in the city, the expansion ongoing in Rivertown and the future growth expected because of the airport terminal relocation and the commercial development of the Lake Pontchartrain lakefront.

“I want to recognize your vision and leadership, Mr. Mayor,” Hecht said, adding that Kenner’s revitalization can attract the families now headed to the metro area because of the “low cost and high culture that nobody else can match.

“I think this can work well (for Kenner) for a couple of decades,” Hecht said.

Hecht pointed to the arrival of 4th Source, an IT company that has relocated from Atlanta and is forecast to create 320 high-paying jobs within the next four years as an example. 4th Source CEO Michael Wedge said the tax incentives and work force available to his company, along with the proximity to the airport, river and rail lines, made Kenner a logical choice.

But Wedge also pointed to Kenner’s revitalization as another key factor.

Yenni told the EDC that it’s important not to relax if the city hopes to continue to attract some of the companies and young professionals being lured to the metro area. “My second term is a time to keep the pedal to the metal,” he said.

Yenni said he wants the EDC to “re-engage” on the area of education, even though the city’s elementary schools are doing well and the city’s first charter school, the Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy, had a successful first year and currently has a waiting list that is nearly matches the school’s enrollment. Good schools are perhaps the top selling point to young people considering where to live, he said.

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Yenni said he also wants the city to “re-engage” with The Esplanade mall, saying that a thriving mall is a great selling point for a city. He said Councilman Keith Conley is in the exploratory stages of determining if Kenner can develop a port while Councilman Dominick Impastato is part of a committee studying ways to better utilize the city’s playgrounds.

“Kenner is really on a roll now,” Yenni said. “This is the time to work even harder so that we can have the city we’ve always dreamed about.”

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