



Bedford Main Street, Inc.

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
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VIRGINIA ABC DISREGARDS COMMONWEALTH'S COMMITMENT TO DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

Disregarding a House Joint Resolution passed in 1992, the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control has chosen to move its package store from its present location in Historic Centertown Bedford to a strip mall on US 460.

House Joint Resolution 185 (1992), which encourages “all agencies of the Commonwealth and other agencies and organizations supported by state funds to locate offices in downtown commercial areas,” was adopted by the Virginia General Assembly as a strong show of support of downtown revitalization efforts in the Commonwealth, specifically the Virginia Main Street Program, of which Bedford has been a part since 1985.

At its March 27th meeting, the Board of Directors of Bedford Main Street, Inc. adopted a letter addressed to Curtis Coleburn, III, Chief Operating Officer of the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, expressing its concern for the Dept. of ABC's apparent lack of knowledge of the state's dedication to downtowns.

Copies of the letter were also sent to members of the ABC Board, Governor Mark Warner, State Senator Stephen Newman (a Patron of House Joint Resolution 185), Delegate Lacey Putney, and Bedford Mayor Thomas Messier.

“While we hate to lose an anchor store to urban sprawl (especially one that has been in Centertown since the 1930s), we are excited about the opportunity of bringing a quality retail store into the space at 106 East Main Street. This is one of Bedford's most outstanding buildings and is located on a high-traffic corridor. Half a dozen new businesses have opened in Centertown in the past few months, and we are getting inquiries on this property already.” Said Scott Smith, Executive Director of Bedford Main Street, Inc.

For information on locating a business in Bedford's growing Centertown Business District, contact Bedford Main Street, Inc. at 540-586-2148 or visit us on the web at www.bedfordmainstreet.org

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Bedford Main Street, Incorporated is a non-profit organization dedicated to the historic preservation and economic development of Bedford's Centertown business district. Founded in 1985 as a part of the Virginia Main Street Program, Bedford Main Street achieves its goals through the activities of the Merchants Committee, Design Committee, Farmers Market, and special events in Centertown. Bedford Main Street also sponsors the Bedford Council for the Arts.