



GASTON COUNTY
Economic Development Commission
North Carolina



Sonic Automotive Announces Plans to Open Newest Office Operations in Gaston County Approximately 500 jobs will be created

December 13, 2018: The Gaston County Economic Development Commission is pleased to announce that Sonic Automotive, Inc. has chosen to locate its newest office operations in Lowell. Located at 109 Kenworthy Avenue in Lowell, the facility will house marketing and advanced customer care operations for Sonic Automotive, Inc. Approximately 500 jobs will be created within a five-year period with an investment of \$11.2 million.

Sonic Automotive, Inc., a Fortune 500 company and member of the Russell 2000 Index, is among the largest automotive retailers in the United States. Sonic Automotive's Lowell operation will provide support of sales operations of the Sonic Automotive family. Sonic's dealerships provide comprehensive services, including sales of both new and used vehicles, vehicle service and the ability for customers to sell used vehicles to Sonic and EchoPark Automotive stores.



"This is a great opportunity for us to leverage the strong workforce in Gaston County and we are excited to expand our operations for Sonic Automotive and EchoPark Automotive in Lowell," said David B. Smith, CEO of Sonic Automotive. "We appreciate the partnership provided by Gaston County, the Gaston County Economic Development Commission, the City of Lowell and the North Carolina Department of Commerce to support our expansion."

"This is great news for the City of Lowell and Gaston County that Sonic Automotive has selected us for their newest customer operations facility, said Mr. Tracy Philbeck, Chairman of the Gaston County Board of Commissioners. "Sonic Automotive is a great addition to our corporate community, and we greatly appreciate this investment which will create quality job opportunities in Gaston County."

"This announcement is greatly appreciated by our citizens, and on behalf of my fellow City Council members, I want to officially welcome Sonic Automotive to Lowell," said Lowell Mayor Sandy Railey. "We will continue to provide service beyond the first day of operation. We are excited you are here, and we greatly appreciate you choosing Lowell for your newest office facility."

"As Chairman of the Gaston County Economic Development Commission, I want to extend our sincere thanks and welcome to Sonic Automotive for locating their newest operation in Lowell," stated Mr. Robert Browne. "I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to the Gaston County Board of Commissioners, the Lowell City Council and the staff of the Economic Development Commission for their diligent work."

The Gaston County Economic Development Commission would like to thank its partners for this successful office operations location of Sonic Automotive, Inc. – the Gaston County Board of Commissioners, the City Council of Lowell, Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, North Carolina Department of Commerce, Moore & Van Allen and Gaston County Legislative delegation.

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