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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **GNRC, Nashville Area Chamber Launch Opportunity Zones Network**

*Public-Private Partnership Showcases Investment Potential Across the Region*

**Nashville, Tenn.** (April 16, 2019) This week, the Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC) and the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce announced the launch of **Greater Nashville Qualified Opportunity Zones** (Greater Nashville QOZ). This place-based program provides a pathway to connect local communities with investors looking to make a positive impact in underserved areas of Middle Tennessee through the Opportunity Zones designation by the United States Treasury Department.

Opportunity Zones are a federal incentive designed to spur new investment in local real estate or commercial activity within economically distressed communities. This program, born out of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, incentivizes the reinvestment of capital gains into designated Census tracts, or Opportunity Zones. The initiative is expected to provide a boost to jobs and economic conditions in some of the region's lowest income areas.

In Middle Tennessee, 31 census tracts are designed as Qualified Opportunity Zones across seven counties. The Greater Nashville QOZ network brings together information about each zone, its attributes and potential projects for investment put forth by the city or county. The website, **GreaterNashvilleQOZ.org**, provides profiles on each of the Opportunity Zones in the region that includes interactive maps and demographic data to assist those interested in exploring the prospect of investing through this program.

"Each of the Qualified Opportunity Zones in the Greater Nashville area has something unique to offer, so we developed a platform to elevate the profiles of these communities for investment potential," said Angela Hubbard, director of economic and community development for GNRC. "The public-private partnership between GNRC and the Nashville Area Chamber is critical to ensuring that investments are directed by the visions of our local communities."

Courtney Ross, chief economic development officer for the Nashville Area Chamber, stated "This is an exciting partnership with the Greater Nashville Regional Council. We are excited about the potential impact of Opportunity Zones in the Nashville region, and the GreaterNashvilleQOZ.org site will be a great tool for these opportunities."

Working with local communities GNRC and the Chamber designed the site for visitors to easily learn about each QOZ and its assets, explore the potential for Opportunity Zones investments, list projects or funds, and become a partner as the program grows.

To learn more about Greater Nashville QOZ visit [GreaterNashvilleQOZ.org](http://GreaterNashvilleQOZ.org).

### **About GNRC:**

The Greater Nashville Regional Council is one of nine development districts across the state. It serves as the primary forum for collaboration among mayors and county executives from 52 cities and 13 counties across Middle Tennessee. The Regional Council programming includes economic and community development, policy, regional research and data analysis, community planning, and aging and disability services. The Regional Council footprint includes Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Robertson, Rutherford, Stewart, Sumner, Trousdale, Williamson, and Wilson, and all incorporated municipalities and metropolitan governments located within these counties. For more information on the Greater Nashville Regional Council visit [GNRC.org](http://GNRC.org).

### **About Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and Partnership 2020:**

The Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce is Middle Tennessee's largest business federation, representing more than 2,000 member companies. Belong, engage, lead, prosper embodies the Chamber's focus on creating economic prosperity by facilitating community leadership. Established in 1990 as an economic development and community enhancement initiative of the Chamber, Partnership 2020 is a regional cooperative dedicated to

making Middle Tennessee among the nation's best places to live, work and do business. Partnership 2020 is supported by a diverse group of public and private companies as well as governmental agencies from the organization's 10-county service area. The work of the Chamber is supported by its members, Partnership 2020 investors and sponsors; the Chamber's Pivotal Partners (a partnership at the highest level for all Chamber programs and events) are Delek US Holdings, Bass, Berry & Sims, BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, Community Health Systems, Gresham Smith and Regions. For more information, visit [www.nashvillechamber.com](http://www.nashvillechamber.com).

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