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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **City of Kirkwood Plans to Purchase Properties for Relocation of Public Works**

**KIRKWOOD (October 5, 2023)**— Kirkwood City Council approved the purchase of the properties at 516 South Elliot Ave. and 545-547 Leffingwell Avenue in Kirkwood for \$12.5 million. These properties will serve as the future location of the City's public works facilities. The 83,500-square-foot building currently houses A-Mrazek Moving Company. With the aim of upgrading the public works departments, the City recognizes the need to replace its outdated facility, which is over 30 years old. By relocating and consolidating office space, utility buildings, and storage to a modern facility in a more industrial area, the City will ensure an efficient level of service, while opening up City-owned property in the downtown area for a more appropriate use. Departments and divisions planned for the relocation are Sanitation, Streets, Fleet, Water, Electric, and Procurement. The building and land to be acquired align with the City's needs. Given the industrial nature of the current public works property, the facility does not complement the Kirkwood Performing Arts Center and is no longer the highest and best use for this land. Relocating the public works facility creates opportunities for redevelopment that will better enhance the City's growing downtown, and that will benefit the local economy and the City's tax base. Kirkwood Electric, currently located at 212 S. Taylor, will also move to the new facility enabling the City to sell that property for development that may better suit the neighborhood.

The City conducted site selection analysis which indicated limited options within or near the City to efficiently provide services. The City needed a space that was at least 7 acres, had room for the development of at least 70,000 sq.ft. of utility and office buildings, and room for outdoor storage, and vehicle storage. The current A-Mrazek property met all the criteria. City representatives worked closely with the owner of A-Mrazek Moving, David Sabada, to finalize the agreement. A-Mrazek will be given a transition period of up to two years to vacate the property. During this time, the City of Kirkwood will market its public works and electric properties for redevelopment.

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