

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

LOVES IS IN THE AIR IN COMBES

Mayor Marco Sanchez was all smiles this morning as he announced that a Loves Travel Stop and Country Store is coming to his community. The Mayor welcomed a small group of citizens, staff and elected officials and proclaimed, "Loves is in the air".

The new Loves Travel Stop and Country Store is going to be 14-acre development located at the intersection of Interstate 69 and FM508 (Templeton Avenue). Loves a family-owned company based in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma which has over 500 locations in 41 States. the Travel Center is going to be accompanied by Chester Chicken and Godfather restaurant. It is expected to have approximately 20 employees. The Loves will be open 24 hours a day. The City estimates it will have an annual impact of \$5 million on its local economy.

Mayor Sanchez said he welcomed their new neighbor with open arms and expressed his gratitude to all the Loves Family for having the confidence and foresight to locate in his community. The last year and a half we have worked through COVID and put in place to have new business like Loves to come to our community. Our staff with the leadership of our City Administrator Aida Gutierrez has been busy putting together the pieces to attract new business to our community; I would like to thank her for all her dedication to our City and her hard work. I would like to thank our project engineer Richard Lefevre for coordinating with the Loves project engineer Chipola Engineering Group, LLC to make sure we have all necessary infrastructure to support this great business.

The City of Combes in 2021 issued approximately \$4.5 million in bonds to undertake the necessary infrastructure for a new development the Mayor referred to as Unity Park Area. The Unity Park Development is approximately 26 acres with a proposed hotel, wellness center, retail plazas, shopping, residential and a walking trail with several lakes. the financing was provided by Lone Star National Bank after the Bank purchased the bond being offered by firm od Estrada Hinojosa Financial Advisor and the Law Firm of Winstead. Both firms were represented by their San Antonio Offices.

"Today is the first announcement of many to come over the next several months regarding our Unity Park Development and Loves Travel Stop and Country Store", stated the Mayor.

When asked if he could elaborate on what's to come, the Mayor responded, "Stay tuned, it will be great".

The Mayor ended his remarks by giving thanks to their economic development consultant Ernesto S. Silva. Mr. Silva a former City Manager in Pharr and Mercedes and consultant to the City of Donna. the Mayor told the crowd that a year and a half ago the City Council decided to hire Mr. Silva to assist us to put together a development plan and a financing strategy to attract new businesses to our small community. We decided to reach out to Mr. Silva to come help jump start our community. We asked people in those communities, and they all said the same thing, proof is in the pudding. Look how he transformed every community has helped and how he got them out of financial problems. Mr. Silva has not disappointed us, and he has pushed us to be more aggressive and forward thinking. He has lured new developers and investors to our community, and we want to say thank you.

When asked for comment, Mr. Silva simply stated, "none of this is possible without you and the City Council. You all make the decisions and I just implement them".