Attracting High-Impact Development to Smaller Cities and Towns

Mayor Thomas M. Leighton
City of Wilkes-Barre
Wilkes-Barre: Then and Now
Achieving Success in downtown Wilkes-Barre

We concentrated on:

1. Improving basic, quality of life issues
2. Creating lasting relationships with invested partners
3. Strategically planning for our future
1. Improving the Quality of Life

- Strengthening the city’s finances
- Increasing public safety
- Improving our downtown’s appearance and accessibility
- Repairing and maintaining our infrastructure
- Enhancing the quality of our neighborhoods
2. Creating Lasting Partnerships

• One entity cannot do it all – must coordinate with:
  • Multiple levels of government
  • Private business community
  • Non-profits
    • Local colleges and universities
  • Residents
3. Strategic Planning

• Focus on:
  • Realistic project goals
  • Reasonable timelines
  • Gaining site control
  • Securing funding
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