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Contact: Caleb Ayers, Public Relations Manager

Caleb.ayers@pittgov.org

434-713-5974

Pittsylvania County formally approves Regional Economic Development Alliance

CHATHAM – The Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors formally passed a resolution in support of a regional economic development partnership with the City of Danville and several other regional partners during their Tuesday night meeting.

"Pittsylvania County is thrilled to partner with the City of Danville and other area stakeholders in this strategic, regional alliance," said Pittsylvania County Administrator David Smitherman. "Having this formal alliance will help better coordinate and hold accountable the various components of a high performing economic development program."

In short, the alliance will coordinate economic development efforts between Danville, Pittsylvania County, and the wide range of involved parties such as educational and workforce development institutions, infrastructure, business, and finance. Pittsylvania County and Danville have often worked together on economic development projects through entities such as the Regional Industrial Facility Authority (RIFA) and the Staunton River RIFA, but this formal partnership that the two localities have been working toward for over a year will provide more consistent guidance.

A leadership council that will oversee the alliance, providing vision and accountability for the different entities involved, will be comprised of Pittsylvania County Administrator David Smitherman, Danville City Manager Ken Larking, Danville Pittsylvania County Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Alexis Ehrhardt, Institute for Advanced Learning and Research Executive Director Mark Gignac, Danville Regional Foundation President & CEO Clark Casteel, along with an industry leader from each locality.

"Strategic and coordinated partnership with the City of Danville and other regional entities will help move both of our localities forward together in terms of economic development," said Bob Warren, chairman of the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors.

Danville City Council is slated to consider a similar resolution approving the alliance at their next meeting, which will make the alliance official.