

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**City of DeKalb and Ferrara Announce 1.6 Million Square Foot Distribution Complex***State of the art complex will bring more than 500 jobs to the city*

January 31, 2020 – Today, the City of DeKalb and Ferrara Candy Company, an emerging powerhouse in the North American confections and sweet snacking categories, announced the company committed to 106 acres in the center of the ChicagoWest Business Park. Construction on the 1.6 million square foot distribution complex will begin immediately.

“This new distribution complex represents growth not only for Ferrara, but the City of DeKalb,” said Mike Murray, Ferrara’s Chief Operating Officer. “This is an exciting time for our company. As our business continues to grow and our portfolio expands, we need additional space to match our ambition. The distribution capacity in DeKalb will allow us to continue to scale our network in the U.S.”

DeKalb Mayor Jerry Smith pointed out that the expected corporate investment in facilities and permanent jobs in DeKalb will give “a much-desired boost to the local economy and provide new reasons for families to settle in DeKalb. “Ferrara brings a reputation for beloved brands and high quality products along with solid career opportunities to our community. We are very excited they chose DeKalb.”

Ferrara’s new distribution complex is expected to be fully operational in Q2 2021 and will bring approximately 500 jobs to the city.

Paul Borek, executive director of the DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation (DCEDC), stated that DeKalb “was a finalist for the company’s interest because of its utility infrastructure, its proximity to Interstate 88, its workforce, and its business-friendly taxing bodies.” DCEDC and the City administration worked closely with Jerry Krusinski, CEO of Krusinski Construction Company, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and State Representatives Tom Demmer and Jeff Keicher to secure state and local incentives through the DeKalb County Enterprise Zone to attract Ferrara.

Bill Nicklas, DeKalb City Manager, was very gratified by DeKalb’s selection. “The projected investment of more than \$100 million by Ferrara in the City of DeKalb affirms the wisdom of our community’s commitment to thoughtful business incentives, advanced water and sewer infrastructure, a trained workforce, and the power of our two institutions of higher learning, Northern Illinois University and Kishwaukee College.” Nicklas is optimistic that Ferrara’s investment will spur other high-quality corporate interest in the City of DeKalb in the coming years.

The builder and developer for this project are Krusinski Construction Company and Trammell Crow Company, respectively. CBRE served as Ferrara’s real estate broker.

More information about the City of DeKalb and future projects can be found at www.cityofdekalb.com.

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About Ferrara:

Ferrara, a company related to The Ferrero Group, is an emerging powerhouse in the North American confections and sweet snacking categories. A passionate team of nearly 6,000 employees works together to share delight in every bite through leading brands that have shaped the industry for more than 100 years. Our diverse portfolio of nearly 35 brands includes SweetARTS®, Trolli®, Brach’s®, Black Forest® and NERDS®, along with iconic favorites like Lemonhead®, Red Hots® and Now and Later®. Ferrara also manages the Keebler® and Famous Amos® businesses for The Ferrero Group. Headquartered in Chicago, Ferrara has an operational network of 20 locations in North America that includes manufacturing, distribution and R&D facilities. Learn more at www.ferrarausa.com.

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