



State of Louisiana

Division of Administration
Office of the Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Meghan Parrish, 225-342-7178

State Announces Capitol Park Welcome Center Sale

BATON ROUGE — Today, Commissioner of Administration Kristy Nichols and Lieutenant Governor Jay Dardenne announced that the Capitol Park Welcome Center and parking garage would be sold following legislative approval next week.

“The welcome center is a great facility that just isn’t being utilized enough to justify the expense for taxpayers,” said Commissioner Nichols. “Managing our finances and our properties responsibly means recognizing when a facility isn’t being used to its full potential. This sale will allow another organization to take advantage of the prime location while providing more value for downtown Baton Rouge.”

The 4,242 square foot Capitol Park Welcome Center building is located at 702 River Road and includes a theater space, meeting space and a patio with room for up to 600 people. It has been appraised at a value of \$7.34 million. The parking garage across the street has been appraised at \$4.05 million. Both property sale proposals will go before the legislature next week for approval. Once the sale is approved, the state will have several options in how to move the process forward, including sheriff’s sale, sealed bids, or a realtor.

“I concur with the administration that selling the underused Capitol Park Welcome Center and parking garage is an appropriate course of action. It will spur more economic growth in downtown Baton Rouge while being fiscally responsible with the taxpayers’ assets,” Lt. Governor Dardenne said. “The Louisiana Welcome Center inside the State Capitol remains open seven days a week, and I’ve long felt this is the most suitable place to direct tourists.”

Proceeds from all property sales are deposited into the state general fund. By selling underutilized facilities the state is able to reduce the amount of funding allocated to maintenance and upkeep of those buildings, in addition to collecting sale proceeds.

###