



City of Bristol

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bristol, CT, August 24, 2006 – In a prepared statement, Mayor William T. Stortz today announced the formation of a committee to explore the concept of a community theater as part of the overall Downtown Project.

Mayor Stortz said, "There is tremendous interest in having a community theater in the downtown area, and as evidenced at meetings, in discussions, and in the recent survey, many of Bristol's citizens would like to see an improved Memorial Boulevard Auditorium as the community theater."

"This committee, comprised of various aspects of our community, will look into the potential support for a theater, the viability of using the Boulevard Auditorium, the economics, both of initial modifications and of on-going costs, and also, parking or any other considerations. At the same time, the committee will explore alternative options including other possible sites." Stortz said.

Stortz continued, "This will be an integral part of the Downtown effort – an effort to make Bristol's Downtown vibrant and active, once again.

Initial steps have already been taken. First, the approval from the DECD to allow us to consider the Memorial Boulevard School as a site with the possibility of receiving State economic assistance. Obviously, certain conditions will have to be met to be considered eligible.

Second, utilizing our local contact on the State Board of Education, Beverly Bobroske, we were able to explain our interest in using the Memorial Boulevard School Auditorium as a possible community theater, and get the feedback that under certain conditions, it is acceptable."

Stortz concluded, "I am excited that so many people our willing to serve and to help this part of Bristol's growth move forward."

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