



## Press Release

**Contact: Lori Huguley, CEcD  
Director  
Economic Development Department  
(334) 705-5115**

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### **Northeast Opelika Industrial Park receives Primus/Garner Certified Food Site Designation**

Northeast Opelika Industrial Park receives Primus/Garner Certified Food Site designation. A 67-acre parcel of the 2,200-acre Northeast Opelika Industrial Park has received the Primus/Garner Certified Food Site designation. Lori Huguley, Opelika Economic Development Director stated, "We are very excited to have been able to certify a site in our park that will indicate our ability to meet the needs of a food/beverage manufacturer. This industry has remained fairly stable during the economic downturn and this certification will let those companies that are looking for a new location know that Opelika is ready for them." The Primus/Garner Certified Food Site program requires that community economic development organizations provide documentation specific to a proposed industrial site, including a set of standard data related to ownership/ control, environmental and geotechnical conditions, and infrastructure status.

The presentation of the certification was made at the Opelika Industrial Development Authority meeting on April 18. Mayor Gary Fuller commended the Authority for supporting the certification. Fuller said, "This is a great example of our community's commitment to do what is necessary to recruit new industry and provide more opportunity for our citizens."

Tony Pitrone, Vice President of Primus Builders, Inc., and Jay Garner, President of Garner Economics, LLC, both of Atlanta made the presentation to OIDA Chairman Ronnie Wilson and Mayor Fuller. Pitrone and Garner commented, "Opelika is a special place. The Northeast Opelika Industrial Park and specifically the 67 acres that we evaluated have met or exceeded the stringent standards our certification program has in place before we can certify a site or building as a certified food site. This site is ideally situated for a food and beverage processing facility, cold storage and food distribution facility. Additionally, Opelika is a wonderful community and an attractive location for companies and families alike. New and recent company locations validate what we have analyzed on paper and in our personal visits. As such, we are very pleased to present the Primus/Garner Certified Food Site designation to the Northeast Opelika Industrial Park."

