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Container business expands into former furniture giant's building in Mesa

“Thinking outside the box” is exactly what the owners of Arizona Corrugated Containers did in purchasing the 152,000 square foot former Levitz building in west Mesa this month. California Box Company (CalBox) which manufactures custom built corrugated paper boxes and displays, and owns Tucson Container in southern Arizona was looking to expand their operations in the State and decided on Mesa because of the business-friendly philosophy of the City Council and City staff. Competitive pricing in the market was also a key element in their final decision.

“We are excited to be coming to Mesa with our newest expansion and operations,” CalBox President John Widera said. “This is a great location for our business with access to transportation routes and plenty of room to grow.”

The company manufactures custom-built corrugated paper boxes for the southern Arizona and north central markets of Mexico. The new operations will be located in the building at 225 S. Dobson which will undergo extensive renovations with an estimated capital investment of approximately \$10 million.

“This is an excellent reuse of this site,” District 3 Councilmember Dennis Kavanaugh said. “The building has been an eyesore for too long and to have a quality company come into west Mesa, invest in improving this facility and bring 20-24 employees is just incredible.”

The company will work with the City’s Economic Development staff to utilize the Enterprise Zone program which has a primary goal to improve the economies of specific areas such as the site where the former Levitz building is located. The program accomplishes this by enhancing opportunities for private investment to qualifying businesses through the use of tax credits and primary property tax reclassification. The City will also work with Arizona Corrugated Containers to become an incubator to create more high paying manufacturing jobs.

“In this economy, to have a business take a vacant building of this size off the market, upgrade the facility and add a payroll of nearly \$1 million is phenomenal,” Economic Development Director Bill Jabjiniak said. “When you examine the national economy, it is the small and mid-sized businesses that keep the economy growing – and even more so in Arizona.”

For more information about the City of Mesa’s Office of Economic Development go to www.mesaaz.gov/economic/ and for information about California Box Company go to www.calbox.com.