



**For Immediate Release
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**Contact: Greg Williams,
862-5567 or greg@springfieldchamber.com**

**Springfield named “Five Star Community”
by *Expansion Management* magazine**

Springfield has been named a “Five Star Community” by *Expansion Management* magazine. The five star rating places cities in the top 15th percentile. Other metro areas that achieve the five star rating include Denver, Colo.; Hartford, Conn.; Kansas City Mo.-Kan.; Omaha, Neb.; and Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas.

Expansion Management, a leading business site location and facility magazine, evaluates all 329 metropolitan statistical areas in almost 50 categories.

“In their analysis of new locations, business and industry decision makers focus primarily on the bottom line. Operating costs, transportation considerations and workforce characteristics are crucial variables in any site location process,” said Greg Williams, vice president of economic development. “But more and more, we’re finding that quality of life issues are becoming a key ingredient in the decision process.”

The “Quality of Life Quotient” rates metro areas as a way of providing a basis for comparing the type of living and working environment in various communities around the country.

“If your idea of a great place to live and work is based upon a reasonable cost of living, affordable housing, low crime, excellent transportation access, good public schools, proximity to community colleges and universities, an educated work force, and low taxes, then our Quality of Life Quotient is worth a look,” said Bill King, editor in chief of *Expansion Management*.

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