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Liberty Fruit Company, Inc. Increases its Produce Capacity in Wyandotte County

Kansas City, KS – Family-owned and operated Liberty Fruit Company, Inc. has announced plans to expand its operations at its current Wyandotte County location, 1247 Argentine Boulevard. The expansion is expected to be complete in March, 2010 and will allow the premier produce distributor to increase its warehouse capacity by 50% and add to their tempered produce storage capability as well as to their workforce.

Liberty Fruit Company, Inc. began its business in Kansas City in 1965 when founders Issie and Mary Caviar began selling fresh produce out of Issie's old yellow pick-up truck. Today, under the direction of Arnold and Carol Caviar, sons Allen and Cory and daughter Allison, the Kansas City, Kansas based company services more than 1,600 food service, institutional marketplace and retail and wholesale customers within a 500-mile radius including the states of Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas and Illinois. Liberty Fruit Company's latest expansion will increase its operational square footage by 30,000 square feet, for a total of 156,000 square feet with 115,000 of that available for the company's tempered products.

Liberty Fruit Company, Inc. employs more than 250 workers, with the expectation to add an additional 25 workers after the expansion. The company is one of Wyandotte County's top 25 private employers. Arnold and Carol Caviar, owners of Liberty Fruit Inc. said, "We never envisioned increasing from our original 42 employees when we first moved to KCK. Many of the employees at our growing company are KCK residents, which is a great community benefit."

"It is important for us, as a community, to make sure our existing businesses are successful and growing strong, no matter the economic conditions," Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City Kansas Mayor Reardon said. "Liberty Fruit Company, Inc. is a great example for how a business can grow and prosper in Wyandotte County, benefiting from all of the amenities we have to offer. We are proud to be able to partner with Liberty Fruit to maintain this valued and mutually beneficial relationship."

"We are fortunate as a county to be able to offer companies like Liberty Fruit Company, Inc. extremely competitive incentive programs to help them grow in their existing locations," said WYEDC President Brent Miles. "When we heard that Liberty was looking to expand their facility we wanted to respond quickly to ensure that process was completed swiftly and to allow for the greatest benefit of both the company and the county. It's very rewarding for our organization to be able to secure their continued presence in Wyandotte County."

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Established in 1965, Liberty Fruit Company is a national distributor of the freshest and finest quality produce products. Centrally located in Kansas City, Kansas, Liberty Fruit Company's customers include the food service and institutional marketplace as well as retail and wholesale customers.

www.libertyfruit.com