



May, 2014

Dear Business Owner:

The City of Bixby wishes to extend a warm welcome to you and your business, as you prepare to make Bixby your new home. We believe you and your employees will find our community a friendly, attractive and rewarding place to which to relocate and prosper. Opportunity for new business activity abounds in Bixby, which features some of the highest population growth trends and most favorable income and educational attainment demographics found in the state of Oklahoma, as well as a documented retail trade gap in excess of \$600 million. This market potential, along with Bixby's high quality of schools, status as a very safe community with a stable, progressive government, a dynamic chamber of commerce, and very attractive quality of life, continue to make Bixby a top choice for people and businesses looking to relocate to the Tulsa metro area in NE Oklahoma. I invite you to read further as I share some of the interesting facts about Bixby.

Official 2010 Census results revealed Bixby was indeed one of the fastest growing cities in Oklahoma this past decade, and second fastest growing in the Tulsa metro region, having grown by 69% since 2000. At 23,000 people, Bixby is now the 19th largest city in the state, up from 32nd a decade ago. And while some Tulsa metro area communities are approaching "built-out" status, Bixby has plenty of remaining land within its future growth "fence line" to accommodate both additional residential growth and significant commercial development, including along the Arkansas River.

Despite this growth, Bixby has retained a friendly, small town feel, with beautiful neighborhoods, numerous churches, and many community amenities. In 2009, these factors led CNN Money.com to select Bixby as one of its Best Places to Live in America, designating it one of America's best small towns.

Commercial developers have praised the City of Bixby for being "business friendly" and easy to work with, citing the personal attention and access to city staff. For example, construction of our new 25,000 square foot Sprouts Farmers Market specialty grocery store set the record for this rapidly expanding national chain, with store officials crediting the city's efficient permitting processes for shaving six months off of typical construction timeframes. As yet another example of its support for local businesses, the City of Bixby annually conducts in partnership with local

retailers one of the state's most successful "shop local" campaigns, known as "Buy Bixby", which helps boost participant's sales.

Bixby participates in the diversified Tulsa regional economy and labor market, which is recognized nationally for its performance:

1. Greater Tulsa selected No. 1 place to live in the U.S. (Relocate America 2009)
2. No. 1 state for entrepreneurship (Kaufman Foundation 2010)
3. No. 1 metro for cost of living (Business Facilities 2010)
4. No. 3 state for corporate tax environment (Area Development 2010)
5. No. 4 metro for quality of life
6. No. 4 state for employment (Business Facilities 2010)
7. No. 4 state for workforce development (Area Development 2010)
8. No. 7 Strongest U.S. metro economy (Business Week 2009)

Bixby is well connected to the state and regional economy via an excellent set of state highways and is less than a thirty minute drive to Tulsa International Airport and downtown Tulsa.

Bixby's percentage of citizens holding B.S. degrees or higher is 40%, which is more than 2/3rds higher than statewide average. Two years ago, Bixby was pleased to become home to Southern Nazarene University's new Northeast Oklahoma branch campus.

Bixby has the highest median home values in the Tulsa Metro Region at \$189,000, which is 70% higher than the state as a whole. Bixby's average new home value is \$335,000.

Bixby's average household income exceeds \$97,000. Bixby has the highest per capita income in the Tulsa Metro Region, at \$34,004 (which is 51% higher than state as a whole). A full 77% of Bixby households are family households.

The population within a 10 mile radius of the heart of Bixby exceeds 380,000.

The Bixby Public Schools district is one of the fastest growing in the state, having this year alone experienced over a 5% growth in student population. In 2010, voters approved by an overwhelming majority a multi-year \$62,000,000 bond issue for the construction and renovation of school buildings. Two new schools were recently constructed, an elementary school on 131st between Garnett and 129th, and a new middle school on Mingo between 151st and 161st. This award-winning school system boasts excellent state test scores, outstanding activity programs, such as its state champion marching band and high achieving athletic teams, all lending credence to its slogan as "Simply the Best".

Featuring a stable, progressive city government, Bixby has a very low crime rate. A recent OSBI report confirmed that Bixby was again the safest city in Oklahoma for communities its size. City voters in 2011 approved by overwhelming majorities a \$10 million G.O. bond issue designed to address critical traffic safety, quality of life and public safety needs of our growing community, without raising taxes. After conducting an extensive analysis of the City of Bixby's fiscal conditions and performance, national rating agency Standard & Poor's assigned a "AA+" rating

with stable outlook to these bonds. Only one city in Oklahoma has a better G.O. bond rating than Bixby.

Bixby has a dynamic Chamber of Commerce which has experienced a very high growth rate. Last year, it was recognized as one of the top 10 chambers of its size in the nation.

A river city, Bixby's city limits are divided roughly in half by the Arkansas River. The city is working with regional partners to explore feasibility of constructing one of a series of low-water dams in this prairie river, to achieve water in the river on a year-round basis and help stimulate river development.

Bixby's new 115 acre Bentley youth sports park, one of the finest in the Midwest, was recognized for top design in the state by the Oklahoma Recreation Sports Society, and for best splash pad design by Aquatic Magazine. It frequently hosts regional baseball, softball, and soccer tournaments and is home to national baseball tournaments. Our newly completed set of multi-sports courts will be used to host basketball tournaments.

The 4,500 seat SpiritBank Event Center has hosted world-class entertainment and numerous events which attract visitors from throughout the region. It serves as the home for the Tulsa 66ers, farm club of the world famous NBA OKC Thunder basketball team. A new 92 room Holiday Inn Express hotel opened two years ago, the second hotel to open in recent years. Also a new \$20 million Class "A" 248 unit apartment complex, Encore on Memorial, was recently completed and is already 98% leased out. Further, a new Reasor's full service grocery store was recently constructed in north Bixby, it being the finest in this successful regional grocer's chain, further expanding the choices available to residents. Panda Express, Raising Canes, Andy's Frozen Custard, Whataburger, have each built new restaurants in our community in the past year or so.

Space limitations restrict the number of new and existing Bixby business successes I can list here, nor the many prospects preparing to locate here. We would be honored to add your company's name to the long list of others which have successfully made Bixby their home!

Sincerely,

Doug Enevoldsen  
City Manager  
City of Bixby