



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Kim Searls (405) 818-2726
kim@downtownokc.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Goes Green as **Rack UP!** Bike Racks Roll in to Downtown Oklahoma City

OKLAHOMA CITY (September 5, 2008) – It will now be easier for residents and visitors to park their bikes in Downtown Oklahoma City. On Wednesday, September 10 Mayor Mick Cornett, Downtown Oklahoma City Inc. and Urban Neighbors will introduce the new **Rack UP!** bike rack system that supports fitness and green transportation Downtown.

At 9:30 a.m. cyclists will roll down GE Finley Bridge in Bricktown and park their bikes in the new racks on the NW corner of Sheridan and Mickey Mantle. At that point the racks will be declared officially in service.

The installation of 35 bike racks throughout the east part of Downtown was a joint effort between DOKC, Inc. and Urban Neighbors. The project is funded by a \$20,000 Neighborhood Partnership Grant a program sponsored by the City of OKC to help qualifying neighborhoods create beautification or safety projects. Neighborhoods must prove they can work cooperatively with City of OKC on requirements such as permitting needs and handle the financial accountability in order to receive the funds.

“Urban Neighbors and Downtown OKC feel strongly about creating a safe, accommodating environment for people to live in and visit. By combining forces, we funded and implemented a bike rack project that will benefit the residents of downtown as well as all citizens of OKC,” said program coordinators Mark Gibbs and Jessica Gonzalez.

Georgie Rasco, executive director of Neighborhood Alliance said, “The bike racks are a gift from Downtown Oklahoma City Inc. and Urban Neighbors to the whole city...their way of saying, “come on down to our neighborhood”.”

The bike racks were custom designed to be visually appealing, functional, and durable. The designs are unique to OKC and all racks were made in Oklahoma. Each rack provides secure parking for two bikes. Dan Garrett with Froggy Bottom Iron Works designed the 34 regular racks. Stan Carroll of Beyond Metal created a functioning art rack for the south side of the AT&T Bricktown Ballpark that displays the name of the project – **Rack UP!**

Metro Transit recently installed bike racks on all Oklahoma City buses and trolleys making it convenient for riders to transport their bikes anywhere in the city. By using Metro Transit and the **Rack UP!** system, it is now practical for cyclists from all over OKC to visit Downtown. A bus and trolley sporting the new racks will be featured at the **Rack UP!** introduction.

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Kim Searls
Downtown OKC Inc.
w (405) 235-3515
f (405) 235-3501
www.downtownokc.com