



OFFICE OF MAYOR VIRG BERNERO
124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE – NINTH FLOOR
LANSING, MI 48933

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CONTACT: Randy Hannan
517/256-7633 cell

Major New Building Planned for Downtown Lansing

“The Lenawee” to Rise 12 Stories Above Former YMCA Site

(LANSING) – Mayor Virg Bernero today announced that the historic revitalization of downtown Lansing will soon take another giant step forward with the proposed construction of a \$60 million dollar, 12-story building, to be known as “The Lenawee.” Located on the current site of the long-defunct YMCA building at the corner of Townsend and Hillsdale Streets, The Lenawee will be an exciting, state-of-the-art structure that offers a premier downtown location with on site parking for law firms, associations and other large users.

“When it is completed this incredible project will have a transformational impact on downtown Lansing at the same time that it strengthens the economic foundation of the entire City,” said Mayor Virg Bernero. “The resurgence of downtown Lansing will pay huge dividends now and in the future by growing our tax base and creating new jobs for our residents.”

Mayor Bernero was joined at today’s announcement by project developers Daniel Essa and Julie Lawton-Essa of Lawton Group Development LLC, who recently acquired the YMCA property. The developers said today that they anticipate moving the project forward over the next 6 to 8 months, with a target date of mid-2010 for completion of the building.

“Today we are unveiling our vision for the future of this site,” Lawton-Essa said. “In the months ahead we will be seeking the valuable partnership and assistance of the City of Lansing and the State of Michigan, marketing the project to potential tenants, and making final preparations to construct this spectacular new building.”

Designed by Neumann-Smith Architects, The Lenawee features a 24,000 square foot raised access floor plate design that will offer spectacular views of the State Capitol Building. Executive offices on Floor 11 will have walk-out access to city-view patios. The building will also be designed to receive a green LEED certification.

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Lawton-Essa said the new building offers prospective commercial tenants a combination of Class A office space and amenities that are unavailable elsewhere in the City. Tenants of The Lenawee will enjoy on site parking for their employees, their clients and the public with integrated parking floors on the lower level and on Floors 2 and 3, as well as an attached 4-story, 650-space parking garage.

As a special amenity to building tenants and their employees, the roof of The Lenawee features a 4-lane jogging and walking track, lounge chairs to take advantage of early spring days or summer lunch hours, and gender specific locker and shower bathrooms. The building's premier location provides easy access to I-496 and is only three blocks from the Capitol in the heart of downtown Lansing.

Bob Trezise, President and CEO of Lansing's Economic Development Corporation, said construction of The Lenawee will add even more momentum to Lansing's resurgent downtown. "At a time when the Michigan economy is still struggling, what we have been able to accomplish here in Lansing is nothing short of amazing," Trezise said. "There can be no doubt that Lansing is leading the way to a brighter economic future for this state and that is something we should all be incredibly proud of."

The Lenawee project announcement is the latest in a series of major development projects unveiled by city officials since last fall, including the Ottawa Street Power Station, Capital Club Towers, Market Place and Ballpark North, and the Kalamazoo Gateway and Ottawa Parcel developments.

Prospective tenants of The Lenawee can learn more about the project by contacting Van W. Martin or Eric F. Rosekrans of CB Richard Ellis at 517/351-2200 or by visiting the CBRE project website at <http://www.thelenawee.com>.

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