



For immediate release:

January 9, 2008

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DMB sells surplus downtown property for condominiums and commercial development

LANSING – The Michigan Department of Management and Budget (DMB) today completed the \$460,000 sale of surplus property to the City of Lansing Brownfield Development Authority, authorized by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm signing SB 134, now PA 43 of 2007. The 5.6-acre parcel, which includes nearly the entire city block bounded by Butler Boulevard and West Ionia, Sycamore and Ottawa streets, was then sold to Sycamore Street Partners LLC through a competitive bidding process for development as a residential complex with 52 condominiums, mixed-use buildings and communal areas.

“This sale will create both jobs for area residents and a vibrant new neighborhood for downtown Lansing,” said DMB Director Lisa Webb Sharpe.

“Once again our terrific partnership with the State of Michigan and the Department of Management and Budget is bearing fruit with an exciting new residential development in the heart of Lansing,” said Mayor Virg Bernero. “Bringing more people to live in and around our downtown is a key part of our strategy to revitalize the urban core of our city.”

(more)

The property, which once held a residential area, was purchased 40 years ago to use for construction of a centralized government complex. Over the years, plans for the complex changed, and the property remained vacant. The Legislature approved the property sale in 2007.

“The Ottawa block will soon rejoin the Genesee Westside Neighborhood, again becoming part of the largest and most diverse downtown residential district,” said Gene Townsend, principal of the Sycamore Street Partnership LLC. “The new homes will match the character of the surrounding blocks and connect to the neighborhood with a pedestrian-friendly and beautifully landscaped plan. Vacant for 30 years, this land will join the city's tax rolls, house new residents paying city income tax, provide dozens of construction jobs, and bring the personal investment of new homeowners to the ongoing revitalization of a wonderful Lansing neighborhood.”

Since Fiscal Year 2004, DMB has ramped up efforts to return surplus property to productive use, generating \$70 million in land sale revenues over the last three years. The department credits its success to hard work and cooperative efforts with other state agencies and the Legislature. Legislative approval is required for each DMB land sale, which results in passage of a statute for each conveyance.

DMB continues to evaluate state government's property needs and recommend surplus parcels and facilities for sale. Information about surplus property sales and leasing opportunities can be found on the department's Web site: www.michigan.gov/dmb.

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