



Office of the Comptroller

W. Martin Morics, C.P.A.  
Comptroller

John M. Egan, C.P.A.  
Deputy Comptroller

Michael J. Daun  
Special Deputy Comptroller

Anita W. Paretti, C.P.A.  
Special Deputy Comptroller

April 16, 2004

Members of the Zoning, Neighborhoods  
& Development Committee  
City of Milwaukee, City Hall Room 205  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Re: File 031665 TID 55 Holt Plaza

Committee Members:

File 031665 would create Tax Incremental District 55, Holt Plaza and approve a Project Plan for the District. Certain key issues related to the Project's financing have yet to be resolved. As a result, this File proposes only the creation of the TID and Project Plan approval. **The terms of any City assistance and the related development agreement would need to be brought back to this Committee for its required approval.**

This project is a proposed shopping center located between South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and South Chase Avenue, just north of West Holt Avenue. The site totals about 20 acres. Once the site of a major manufacturer, the space was developed into a shopping area 20 years ago including a large grocery chain, hardware store and warehousing. The current site includes about ¼ million square feet of useable space, most of which remains vacant.

The developer – Mifflin Care Center, Inc. - proposes a retail development anchored by a 103,000 sqft Home Depot, a 76,000 sqft Pick N' Save, a 12,000 sqft mid size retailer and 19,000 sqft. of outlot space. The developer currently owns the land and has a \$5.6 million mortgage balance outstanding on the property. The developer requests a City grant to fill the "gap" to complete financing. The following are the proposed budget sources and uses of funds for the proposed Holt Plaza project:

**Uses**

Project design, construction & infrastructure costs	\$9,120,000
Repay Existing Debt	\$5,604,000
Prepayment Penalty to payoff current mortgage	\$1,665,000
City Capitalized interest & administrative costs	<u>\$ 492,000</u>
Total Uses	\$16,881,000

**Sources**

Debt	\$12,828,000
Equity	\$1,913,000
Estimated City Contribution	
Through Developer Loan	<u>\$2,140,000</u>
Total Sources	\$16,881,000.

**Is the Project Likely to be Successful?**

Two questions to be addressed to determine project success are: 'Will the project be completed as planned?' and 'Will the project produce sufficient property tax revenues to provide a viable development and retire the TID with all City costs covered?'. The project holds the potential of

improving a large development site previously underutilized for a number of years. Two major tenants proposed for the project also provide a strong base for success. The developer does need to acquire a firm loan or equity commitment regarding the \$7.2 million of additional capital required and finalize the City financing. What needs to happen next is for the developer to reach agreement on the following on terms acceptable to both the developer and the City:

- 1) First, a loan commitment from a private lender to finance the additional developer capital needed
- 2) After 1) is achieved, an adequate financing arrangement with the City to complete the plan of finance for the project.

Once these issues are successfully addressed, our Office would likely conclude that the project should be successful.

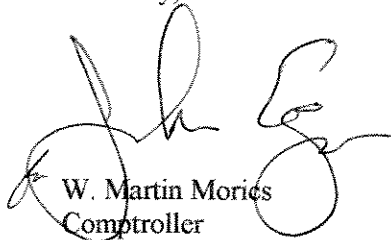
**Is the Proposed Level of City Financial Assistance Required for the Project to Proceed?**

The current estimate of City financial assistance for this project totals up to \$2,140,000. The developer currently owns the project site, including an outstanding first mortgage debt of \$5.6 million. As shown above, the developer needs to borrow another \$7.2 million to finance the project. The developer would like to finance the entire \$12.9 million through a new mortgage, in part by refinancing the \$5.6 million of existing debt. However, the current mortgage agreement includes a penalty of over \$1.6 million to prepay the \$5.6 million current mortgage balance. The proposed City contribution of up to \$2.1 million is needed mainly to fund this large prepayment penalty. Without the prepayment penalty, the developer would be able to proceed with the project with only a fraction of the proposed \$2 million taxpayer subsidy.

The City and the developer are currently seeking ways in which the needed additional capital can be acquired without the City taxpayer having to pay this mortgage prepayment penalty. Once a loan commitment or other source(s) acceptable to both the developer and the City is acquired for the additional \$7.3 million financing, the City's necessary financial assistance can be established. At that time, the terms of a development agreement between the City and the developer would be drafted and submitted to your Committee and, if approved, to the Common Council for its consideration.

**Therefore, we do not object to the approval of the TID at this time, contingent on the developer acquiring a financing commitment for the project acceptable to the City which minimizes the necessary City taxpayer subsidy.** Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me immediately.

Sincerely,



W. Martin Mories  
Comptroller

Cc Patricia Algiers  
Jennifer Basile  
James Scherer

Mjd/4-16-04