

# News Release



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## **Detroit Councilman Gabe Leland joins council's proactive approach to support platform for Detroit job creation**

*Council approves land transfer agreement for new arena development*

**DETROIT (February 4, 2014)** – Detroit City Councilman **Gabe Leland** joined with five other council members to approve a city land transfer today of properties between downtown and midtown, which was another step in the process to begin construction of the new Detroit Red Wings arena.

Leland serves as chair of the Council's Planning and Economic Development Committee, which was instrumental in the process to draft and approve the resolution regarding the land transfer. The action today by the council body to approve the land transfer is a necessary step for the project to secure the financing.

"When I ran for City Council in District 7 last year, I made a commitment to Detroiters that I will collaborate with my colleagues and the new mayor to bring more platforms for job creation into our city," said Leland. "We vetted this project and land transfer thoroughly. Together, we reached an agreement for a Neighborhood Advisory Council that will be a voice for the community as the project moves forward. There is never a perfect development agreement. In this process, we have created a starting point for community benefits and job opportunities for economic development with this catalyst project -- the largest development for Detroit in the past several decades.

"The new hockey arena and ancillary projects will provide the best case scenario for development in that area of the city that bring jobs for Detroiters. As chair of the Planning and Economic Development Committee, I anticipate this catalyst project moving forward and will hold Olympia Development of Michigan accountable in ensuring that Detroiters attain many of the construction and permanent jobs."

The arena development is planned for the area bordered by Woodward Avenue on the east, I-75 Fisher Freeway on the south, Cass Avenue on the west, and Temple to the north. The land transfer approved today included 37 city-owned properties.

Leland added, "This catalyst development will finally connect midtown to downtown in an area that has seen very little development in the past several decades. There have been innovative efforts by Midtown Detroit, the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation (DEGC), the Downtown Detroit Partnership (DDP), and business owners to evolve midtown and downtown into vibrant areas of our region. This is the next step and I look forward to seeing Detroiters on the job when construction begins."

### **About Detroit Councilman Gabe Leland**

Gabe Leland serves citizens in the new District 7 on Detroit's west side as councilman. He was elected in November 2013 as one of seven council members who represent citizens in the city's new district format. Leland is a former elected member of the Michigan House of Representatives - District 10, serving constituents in northwest Detroit. While a state representative, he was chair of the House Committee on Urban Policy. As a council member, Leland chairs the Planning and Economic Development Committee and serves on the boards of the Eastern Market Corporation and Tech Town.

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