

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT - CENTRAL AND WESTERN MASS
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DOUG MCGARRAH

MAJOR PROJECTS

- GARDNER: The press conference on the two UDAGS was held last week (11/15). Attached are the press clippings. While I will continue to maintain contact in the area (perhaps to include a reception for PT later) this will conclude our intensive involvement in the city's development efforts.
- PITTSFIELD: The developer has submitted a proposal to us with the backing of the city and the CARD board. We are now to ship this over to the First National Bank of Boston for their review. PET should be making a call on this shortly.
- CHICOPEE: The downtown road improvement project dispute was resolved with the city making up the difference. A trade-off was made for future reimbursements for off-street parking. The current involvement is to revive the Spalding Mills project which was slated for conversion into market housing. I will be spending some time to explore possibilities to pull this together.
- HOLYOKE: This last month I attended the ground-breaking for the State Heritage Park and the Wang building. There may be an opportunity to work with the city on additional funding for the Park which I will explore. The city was recently notified that its entitlement status will not be lifted as was feared. Tom McColgen, City Director of C.D. has expressed a strong interest in fighting "New Federalism" and offered to provide the city's support/testimony on the impact of these programs. We will be*
- WORCESTER: Our principle involvement has been working with the Chamber on export development. With PT's visit last month on the topic and the SBA 503 Conference I attended earlier this month I have been developing a good basis for recognition and involvement with the business community. This month I am arranging a luncheon with Don Melville, CEO of Norton Co., and a meeting with the Presidents of the 11 local banks to discuss prospects for the formation of an LDC/Mortgage Pool for downtown development. The details of this proposal will be the major focus of my efforts in December.
- SPRINGFIELD: The North End UDAG project is back on course and many of the issues I discussed with Jerry Slavet of MB Associates have been resolved. I also arranged a meeting with Pat Burke of the UDAG office and Austin Miller of the Brightwood Development Corporation to discuss the plans. While the project contains some housing (which is being disallowed in future HUD policy) there is enough of a commercial component to satisfy the new criteria.

*trying to schedule PT into Holyoke to attend a ceremony for the Industrial Energy Conservation Project. This is a HUD Innovative Grant awarded nearly two years ago to the city to improve the energy conservation of the city's industrial buildings. We were very involved with the negotiations of this grant.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

I have been working with the GSA and the Government Ctr. Day Care Ctr. on some means of reducing their rental costs. Recently I hosted a meeting with representatives of the GSA and the Day Care Ctr. which provided a batch of long awaited information. From this meeting a plan has been developed and is underway whereby agencies will be asked to share the extra costs on a pro rata basis.

We now have a date set for a party in Springfield in March. I will be developing this event over the coming months. This is also true for the series of events on Feb. 12.

I met with Dawn Breen of the Mass. House Comm. on Urban Affairs (Joe Timilty's Comm.) to discuss a range of fed/state economic development issues and exchange ideas. We may pursue some issues of housing and Enterprize Zone legislation.

At a meeting with faculty of the U.Mass School of Ed on the High Tech issues in Education, the importance of the humanistic education of computer technologies was brought home. Training teachers to train students is a major piece of the puzzle.

Related to the high tech focus, I have continued to be involved with discussions within and outside the office.

I am developing a plan to host export development conferences in four or five key areas in the state. Last week I met with Frank O'Connor for a lengthy and wide-ranging discussion on the topic. This is a project on which I am working with my intern, Mark Hatch. We hope to have a plan firmed up early in December.

The regional economic development effort, linking the resources of U.Mass with the Springfield business community continues with new vigor from Chancellor Duffy. A meeting has been set for next week at the University for further discussions.