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Pontiac Mayor Deirdre Waterman Announces Development of Former Silverdome Site: Plans set in motion for Distribution Center upon approval of Amazon Deal

PONTIAC – The storied history of the Pontiac Silverdome is soon expected to boast a new chapter. The 127-acre site that is former home of the Detroit Lions and Detroit Pistons may soon land another big name tenant – Amazon.

Plans are in the works to redevelop the site into a regional distribution center for the retail titan. If developed, the \$250 Million planned project is expected to create over 1,500 full time jobs for the area and be the first site nationally for Amazon to have both a fulfillment center and delivery station.

First steps in the process were completed Wednesday night as the Pontiac Planning Commission considered granting a special exemption permit for the site to be used as a warehouse, distribution and fulfillment campus.

The application was made by Atlanta-based Seefried Industrial Properties. Representatives from both Seefried and Amazon were present at the meeting to discuss details of the project. Seefried is under contract to purchase the Silverdome site for the purpose of building two facilities that would be leased by Amazon. Throughout the country, Seefried has built multiple distribution centers for Amazon.

Pontiac Mayor Deirdre Waterman called the potential development and pairing with Amazon a “great match.”

While a final decision on closing on the purchase of the Silverdome site is still months away, details of the plan reveal immediate construction with the proposed delivery station operational by 3rd quarter 2020 and the fulfillment center operational by 3rd quarter 2021.

Wages for employees would start at \$15 an hour for both full and part-time associates. Amazon’s comprehensive benefits start upon hire for all employees including healthcare, vision and dental, 401k, and paid leave.

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“The former Silverdome site is an ideal location and Pontiac is poised with a ready workforce” said Mayor Waterman. “Landing Amazon will bolster Pontiac’s continued economic success and further our pipeline of pairing industry with talent.”

Situated along the junction of southeast Michigan’s busiest highways – I75 and M59 – the site is one of Oakland County’s most prime big sites for redevelopment including the Palace of Auburn Hills slated for demolition and the Summit Place Mall property that was just torn down – but none with the nostalgia of over 3 decades of memories left from the Silverdome site.

The Silverdome was opened in 1975 and closed permanently in 2013.

The 80,000 seat stadium played host to Super Bowl XVI, the 1979 NBA All-Star Game, Wrestlemania III, FIFA World Cup 1994, mega rock concerts and visits from the likes of U.S. presidents, musical royalty such as the Beatles, Michael Jackson and even His Holiness Pope John Paul II.

After two partial implosions, the Silverdome was demolished in 2017 and cleared for redevelopment.

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