



City of Detroit

Detroit City Council

Council Member Angela Whitfield Calloway

District 2

STATEMENT CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF THE RENAISSANCE CENTER

Recent media speculation suggested that a portion of the Renaissance Center will be demolished. This speculation needs to be addressed.

Detroit City Council Member Angela Whitfield Calloway recommends that the interior of the four 39 story office towers be re-configured so that the top 20 floors of each tower can be converted to residential units thus reducing the overall amount of office space and creating about 2,000 residential units. The City of Detroit may elect to approve tax incentives that will trigger a requirement that 20% of the residential units be offered as affordable housing at 80% of AMI. The level of affordability can be improved by using funds from the Detroit Downtown Development Authority (Detroit DDA) to subsidize lower rents. This may result in approximately 400 units of affordable housing. This may allow low wage workers to live near their place of employment and enjoy the benefits of downtown living.

Detroit City Council Member Calloway is opposed to the demolition of the office towers. City Council will study the downtown commercial market demand, downtown residential market demand, tax incentives and the rights of private corporations to better understand the situation; however, the future of Detroit looks better with the existing four towers of the Renaissance Center re-used and re-purposed. Detroit deserves better.