



**MINUTES OF THE
DETROIT BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE
6000 EAST JEFFERSON AVENUE – FORMER UNIROYAL SITE
BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**Wednesday, October 15, 2025
Cred Café
6340 E Jefferson Ave.
Detroit, MI 48207
5:00 PM**

In attendance were:

Brian Vosburg (DEGC/DBRA)	Aminata B. Sow (Neighbor)
Cora Capler (DEGC/DBRA)	Giulia Buratto (Neighbor)
Jennifer Kanalos (DEGC/DBRA)	Thomas Randolph (Neighbor)
David Bonner (DBRA-CAC)	Marja Farrow (Business Owner)
Rico Razo (DBRA-CAC)	Mike Farrow (Property and Business Owner)
Byron Osbern (DBRA-CAC)	Breanna Sullivan (City of Detroit)
Krysta Pickett (DEGC)	Don Ulsci (Neighbor)
Adam Patton (Pinchin)	Matt Temkin (Greatwater Capital)
Richard Haddad (Detroit Pistons)	Keith D. Beasley (Channel One Event Venue)
Stefen Welch (Detroit Pistons)	Constance Bailey (Rivertown Detroit Association)
Kevin Grigg (Detroit Pistons)	Colleen Robar
Richard Barr (Honigman)	Delores Orr
Maria Hubbard (Plante Moran)	Aric Armon
Owen Lavery (Plante Moran)	Martha Coates
Bill Lichwalla (Plante Moran)	Quincy Smith
Corey Levin (Honigman)	Jamaine Dickens
Sam Rouse (Plante Moran)	Tinia M. Holmes
Brittney Hoszkiw (City of Detroit, Mayor's Office)	
Max Reinhart (Detroit News)	
Lee Visci (Neighbor)	
Tom Woodman (Neighbor)	

Mr. Vosburg called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM.

Mr. Vosburg informed the hearing of the tax increment financing request per the Brownfield Plan, the brownfield approval process, how tax increment financing works, and about the current conditions of the property.

Mr. Haddad and Mr. Welch provided more information about the plans for the project including the development of the WNBA Facility, the Youth Development Academy and the proposed programming, athletic fields, parking and greenspace, the community engagement performed for the project to date, the construction timeline for the project including the deadline of 2029 for the new WNBA team.

Question and Answer



Attendees of the public hearing asked questions regarding the renderings and how much of the developments will be completed by 2029, more details on the plans for the Youth Development Academy, potential impacts of construction on neighboring residential areas and how information will be communicated during construction, the impacts on traffic and parking Jefferson Avenue during construction, sustainability features of the development, the hiring of local contractors and subcontractors, plans for parking for the development, potential links to the shuttle that currently operates between Michigan Central Station and Jefferson Avenue not far from the property, the plans to maintain air quality during the environmental remediation of the property, if there have been any community benefits proposed outside of the Youth Development Academy, if there will be any interruptions in access to the Detroit Riverwalk adjacent to the property during construction for the project, future community meetings for the project and how the public can receive information for those meetings, if there will be any actions taken to prevent runoff going into the Detroit River during the remediation of the property, if there will be any retail included in the development, where the WNBA team will play their home games, other brownfield projects that have been completed in the City, and how the members of the DBRA-CAC are appointed.

Public Comment

Mr. Thomas Randolph stated that his law office, Randolph Law Group, is located next door to the Cred Café and he is supportive of the project and is happy that there is more development happening further down Jefferson Avenue.

Ms. Delores Orr of the East Village Association stated that the developers met with the East Village Association about the project and is fully supportive of the project.

Mr. Quincy Smith stated that through his work with Team Pursuit, a Community Violence Intervention organization, he knows how impactful youth sports are to the community in the prevention of violence and that he would be interested in seeing how Team Pursuit can be involved in the Youth Development Academy.

Ms. Constance Bailey from the Detroit Rivertown Association stated that the association is fully supportive of the project.

Paper copies of the presentation including renderings for the project were provided.

Nine attendees indicated their support for the project on the sign-in sheet.

Citing no further questions or public comments, Mr. Vosburg provided information on ways to provide written public comment and closed the public hearing at 5:56 PM.

Cora Capler

From: Heather Hamilton <h.hamilton1917@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 3:38 PM
To: Cora Capler
Subject: WNBA Project on the Uniroyal Site

This project is very exciting to me. I have lived at The Lofts at Rivertown for 5 1/2 years and have been waiting for a project like this to fill this void (one of last vacate lots on the riverfront). The thought of again having an WNBA team in Detroit is wonderful and long overdue. But equally exciting is the scope of the project that will include facilities for the youth of our city. I look forward to having this project enhance our great Islandview neighborhood.

Cora Capler

From: Perkins, Alex (A.) <aperki45@ford.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 2:57 PM
To: Cora Capler
Subject: Regarding the Uniroyal site proposal from a resident of Lofts at Rivertown

To whom it may concern,

Our neighborhood has so much potential. The **Lofts at Rivertown** are unbelievably beautiful, historic, full of character, and surrounded by a community that truly believes in Detroit's future. But for too long, this section of the city has been left behind.

The possibility of a **WNBA training facility** being built on the Uniroyal site feels like more than just a development project, it feels like **hope**. It would bring attention, energy, and opportunity to our corner of Detroit, showing others what we've known all along: that this area is special.

A project like this would help others see the beauty we see every day, from our vibrant community to the incredible views of **Belle Isle and the Detroit River**, one of Detroit's true treasures. For years, our neighborhood has been waiting for a catalyst like this. To finally see it move forward would mean the world to us residents, to local businesses, and to everyone who believes in Detroit's renewal.

This isn't just about new construction, it's about **reviving possibility** and shining a light on a place that deserves to be seen.

Alex Perkins
Integrated Services
Sr. Product Manager | Lincoln, Rejuvenate
(810)623-5346



Cora Capler

From: Katie McPharlin <mcpharlink@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 4:05 PM
To: Cora Capler
Subject: WNBA

Hello,

I am a resident at the Lofts of Rivertown and I am thrilled to hear about the NWBA development. As a Doctor of education and proud Detroit community member I love to see the city invest in spaces which will support youth athletes and highlight the strength and power of women athletes. The Lofts of Rivertown has been such a dream community of love, passion, creativity, diversity, and inclusion. It would feel so welcome to have the WNBA across the street to become an extension of the closeness we all feel with our community.

Thank you for investing in our neighborhood.

We are ready!

Dr. Katherine McPharlin

Cora Capler

From: Jordan <jordangust96@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 3:33 PM
To: Cora Capler
Subject: WNBA Facility - Islandview Resident

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello DEGC,

My name is Jordan Gust, I am a resident of Islandview, excited to finally see some significant development new with the proposed WNBA facility location on the Uniroyal site.

I've lived in Islandview long enough to see how much potential this neighborhood has, and how often it's been overlooked. The idea of a WNBA training facility on the Uniroyal site feels like more than just another development - it represents momentum, visibility, and belief in this part of Detroit. It seems Islandview is sandwiched between a historic Indian Village, and a vibrant Downtown. A WNBA facility here would not only boost Belle Isle but would finally give Islandview a calling card.

I believe this development could serve as a spark - one that inspires pride among current residents, attracts new ones, and continues building a stronger sense of connection and purpose here along the river. Islandview has always had heart; it just needs the city and state to notice.

Thank you for your continued push to land this project. We'll be watching!
Jordan Gust

Development



Gabe Sauvie <sauvie@gmail.com>

To  Cora Capler



Follow up. Start by Friday, October 17, 2025. Due by Friday, October 17, 2025.

You replied to this message on 10/17/2025 9:53 AM.



Reply



Reply All



Forward



Thu 10/16/2025 4:59 PM

I moved to the Lofts at Rivertown two years ago. So, I'm situated across the street from where the WNBA training facility and Sports Complex might be built. I have fell in love with the area. The neighborhoods, shops, bike friendly streets, riverwalk, views of the water, Belle Isle, and proximity to everything the city has to offer. The old Uniroyal site is in a prime location and developing it could make this area even greater. I've also fell in love with everyone I interact with in the area. There was also a greenway (walking bike path) in drawings that could be something like the Dequindre Cut, Dennis Archer or SW Greenway that could connect the neighborhoods to the project. It would be a safe way for residents to access the site, facilities and riverwalk. So if this does move forward. Please know. You will be moving into a special part of the city that will embrace you. Thank you for working on bringing something great to E. Jefferson.

Gabe Sauvie
6533 E Jefferson Apt 319
Detroit, MI 48207
248.854.2324

Cora Capler

From: erin witte <erinwitte12@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 12:00 PM
To: Cora Capler
Subject: WNBA Training Facility

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good Afternoon,

I'm writing to share my support for the proposed WNBA training facility at the Uniroyal site. As a resident of Islandview, I see how much pride and potential this neighborhood holds.

A project like this could truly transform how people see our community — bringing visibility, opportunity, and optimism to a place that deserves it.

Best,
Erin Witte