

# SEMCOG reviews Lion's move

BY PAT MURPHY  
STAFF WRITER

A SEMCOG committee has agreed to review moving the Lions Football Team from Pontiac to Detroit.

But nobody expects a decision that would reverse — or alter — the decision to move the Lions from the Silverdome to a proposed stadium in downtown Detroit.

"Ours is an advisory role," said Paul E. Tait, deputy executive of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. "We provide additional information to make sure the full impact is understood."

Even if SEMCOG doesn't have the authority to change the decision to move the Lions, the agency should review the situation, according to Oakland County deputy executive Kenneth Rogers.

"SEMCOG should look at the move that left Pontiac with a

fully functional, empty stadium," Rogers told Oakland County commissioners prior to Thursday's regular meeting of the Oakland County Board. "The Lions left a perfectly good stadium to move to one that will cost millions of tax dollars. That should be reviewed."

Later in the day, Rogers — with support from Pontiac officials — asked SEMCOG to review the decision to move the Lions.

SEMCOG's Clearing House Review Committee has agreed to the review, said Tait. "But it will take at least 60 days."

That means the review would not be done — and no recommendation issued — prior to the Nov. 5 election when Wayne County will vote on raising the taxes on hotel and motel rooms and raising the fee on auto rentals.

Tait said the SEMCOG committee has the wherewithal to review decisions that are signifi-

cant enough to impact more than one county and have serious economic and environmental implications.

"We haven't reviewed many cases," he said. But the committee did review the controversial Auburn Hills Megamall — proposed about three years ago, but subsequently abandoned by the developers.

"We (SEMCOG's committee) pointed out some additional information about the proposed megamall," said Tait. "We called attention to the railroad track that goes through the site and the trains that would have closed one side of the mall several times a day."

Tait didn't know if that information contributed to the decision to abandon plans for the mall. "But at least we made sure all the information was available."

The SEMCOG committee hopes to play a similar role in moving the Lions, he said.

**"Ours is an advisory role. We provide additional information to make sure the full impact is understood."**

Paul E. Tait  
deputy executive for SEMCOG

Oakland County government has traditionally been skeptical of SEMCOG, acknowledged Rogers, in part because it the agency didn't seem to have the best interests of Oakland in mind.

"Oakland has traditionally paid higher SEMCOG dues," Roger said, "and had fewer representatives on the board of directors."

That's still the situation, Rogers said Friday. "But we want to see what, if anything, SEMCOG has to say about the Lions leaving Pontiac."

## Leisure from page A11

Judges, including three for whom he worked: Bernard Kaufman of the Oakland Circuit Court; George La Plata and William R. Beasley.

Goryca enjoys reading about presidents too, including his political hero, Ronald Reagan. "Reagan was a great leader," he said. "He could rally Americans

together. I believe he will have a place in history as one of America's greatest presidents."

Both candidates believe in community involvement. Goryca is a Royal Oak City Commissioner, while Kaplan was on the Southfield Board of Educa-



STAFF PHOTO BY DAN DEAN

**Lifting: David Goryca pumps iron in his free time. The attorney hopes to beat out Kaplan at the polls.**

## Candidates from page A11

Goryca is particularly emphatic about opposing plea bargaining because his primary opponent, incumbent Richard Thompson, bought radio commercials incorrectly stating Goryca's position.

Goryca said he would not plea bargain on homicide cases. He would, however, use "common

**Goryca reiterated his pledge to never plea bargain on a homicide case. He also said he would initiate a special youth gang prosecution unit to fight the gangs in Oakland County.**

sense" in considering plea bargaining in lesser cases — such as drug cases in which a low-level defendant might be persuaded to provide information on a user or supplier.

"I would consider plea bargaining to achieve a greater good," he said previously, "but I'm not talking about giving

**Kaplan said his office would expedite cases involving violence, particularly homicide. He also vowed to provide weekly updates on individual cases to the families of homicide victims.**

away the store."

Kaplan reiterated his position that he would refuse to plea bargain on homicide cases.

In cases involving several defendants, Kaplan's homicide protocol states his office would consider using a "lesser involved offender as a witness in order to gain a conviction against the

leader or trigger man."

That would only happen, he said, with the approval of the family of the victim and the officer in charge of the case.

In response to a question, Kaplan said he would take a different view of nonviolent crimes.

"Particularly with first offenders," he said.

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