

Local men released on bond in fraud case

AP — Kenneth A. Weiner was indicted along with two other men on 36 counts of fraud in an investment scheme, but he is the only one sitting in a prison cell.

Weiner, who is also a key figure in a separate, unrelated grand jury probe into possible theft from a Detroit police fund for undercover operations, will appear before U.S. District Court Judge Lawrence P. Zacks this week for a new bond hearing.

Weiner's attorneys said Friday he should be released from prison on bond. They also said he would seal a bond if released.

"The other gentlemen are charged with the exact crimes as Mr. Weiner," defense attorney David Zacks said. "If they're worthy of being released on personal bond,

then obviously we feel we're entitled to the same."

Dr. Steven Lewin and West Bloomfield businessman Alvin Gendelman, who were indicted along with Weiner on the fraud charges, have been released on \$100,000 unsecured bonds.

ATTORNEYS FOR Weiner said Friday they will present evidence that either refutes or clarifies earlier evidence submitted by prosecutors against their client. Weiner was named last month in a federal indictment charging him and two others with cheating investors out of millions of dollars in a pyramid scheme.

Zacks wouldn't comment on all the evidence he plans to present at this week's hearing, but he said there were mistakes in some government testimony.

For example, FBI agents said Weiner had used an American Express credit card issued to Phyllis Rice of Farmington Hills. But Rice has a son, also named Kenneth A. Weiner, who was authorized to use the card. Zacks said his client never used it.

"Colleen Bailey intends to marry Mr. Weiner if he's released on bail," defense attorney Robert Harrison

said to U.S. District Judge John Feikens at the bond review Friday.

Feikens wasn't swayed by the argument. He ruled that Zacks should hear any new evidence because he was the judge who ordered Weiner held without bond after a Dec. 27 hearing.

Weiner was ordered held after prosecutors argued he would likely flee if released.

Group looks at work that helps promote downtown

Continued from Page 1

marketing during the past year, as it continues the physical streetscape improvements that are expected to take another few years to complete.

The board is nearly one year into a two-year promotional contract with Hermanoff, being financed mostly by four major landlords in the downtown area.

These include Lencher's center and also that of Frank Clappison, whose family owns Center Holding Co., which houses several national chain stores.

BOTH CLAPPISON and Lencher wanted to see the Downtown Farmington Business Association, a merchant group or other individuals get involved so that the promotion program can continue after its scheduled completion in June 1991, they said.

"I think it's important we get a handle on this DFBA," Clappison said.

"I don't know if we've made enough progress with that organization to say we have an ongoing promotional project. Do we have enough people aware of the image?"

The DDA board is expected to review the Hermanoff contract to determine whether a change should be made in the promotional focus.

Currently, Hermanoff is contracted to do four large promotions, including the upcoming Downtown Day, several mini-promotions, a regular newsletter and contact with downtown businesses. The program costs \$40,000 per year.

Other landlords paying for the promotional program include Farmington Holding Co., which owns the Village Mall, and Nelson-Ross Prop-

erties, which owns The Village Commons.

SOME DDA members suggested Tuesday that Hermanoff be directed to motivate and organize the DFBA as part of their arrangement, while others disagreed.

That is expected to be clarified either through discussions at an upcoming DDA Promotions Committee meeting, or by a discussion of the full board, said DDA executive director Wendy Strip-Sittsamer.

Tuesday's discussion was prompted by Robert Fitzpatrick, who represents area residents on the DDA board.

AS A consumer, Fitzpatrick was concerned seeing the downtown until after dark, while other centers in the

area are well lit and inviting, he said.

"When you drive into a shopping district and see 75 percent of the center dark, when other centers are lit up, that's a strong, strong draw vs. the visual image we get here," he said.

Fitzpatrick also called for "freshening the appearance" and "unifying the downtown — tying it together in some way."

THERE STILL needs to be a spark ignited among business owners, despite the recent promotional efforts, Clappison said.

"If people . . . think they can operate downtown Farmington as they have in the past, they're wrong."

Someone that's got to get out."

"There's no simple solution and answer," board member Greg Hohler said. "We're all going to succeed, whether individually or collectively. We're better off succeeding together."

"I think we all want the same

thing. I think we all want to see it happen and succeed."

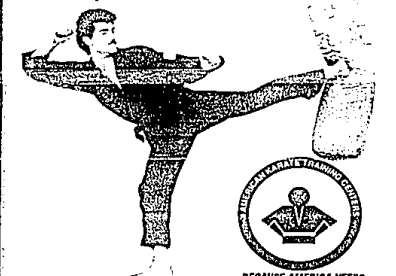
A general membership meeting of the DFBA is scheduled for noon Thursday, March 15, at the First United Methodist Church of Farmington on Grand River.

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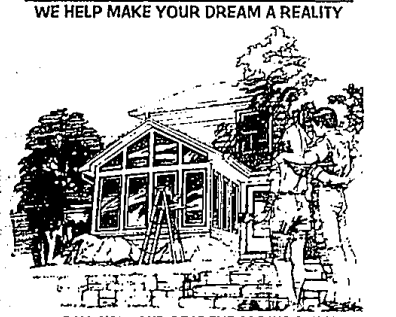
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