



Hello: Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer greets East Middle School student Robert Miller, a member of the Encore Choir, which performed for guests at the rally Tuesday night at the William Costick Activities Center.



Diversity: North Farmington High School student Dana Davis spoke to the crowd about the diverse student body at her school.

Multicultural rally

Detroit Mayor Archer calls efforts 'inspired and inspiring'

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer proved the hand of friendship extended from city to suburbs can also be used for a hearty pat on the back.

Archer commended the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council for its ongoing efforts, calling them "inspired and inspiring." Added Archer, "We frankly need more of it in our region."

The mayor spoke as part of the council's kickoff rally Tuesday at the William Costick Activities Center. The third annual rally called attention to upcoming programs, which include the annual Rainbow Recognition Breakfast and, for the first time, an international gathering to coincide

with the annual Farmington Founders Festival.

WDIV-TV and Farmington area resident Roger Weber will moderate a talk on the council's guiding principles 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, at the Farmington Training Center. Such programs made the guest speaker take note.

"We can choose to celebrate our diversity, work toward better cooperation in the region and grow together," Archer said. "Or we can avoid acknowledgment of our cultural differences, build more walls between us and hope we don't bump into each other anytime soon."

"It's gratifying to know the Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council and Farmington Public Schools are committed to the first choice."

The first choice is a major



Perform: The Harrison High School marching band performed at the annual multicultural and multiracial rally Tuesday night.

player in Detroit's economic revival, Archer said.

He cited the General Motors' planned renovation of the

Renaissance Center, revitalization of the theater district, two stadiums in the works and \$7 billion in new development since 1994. Casinos are expected to generate another \$1.825 billion.

By voters reaffirming his casino plan, the politics of personality and division are over, Archer said.

A partnership between Detroit and suburbs is crucial if economic prosperity is to become reality.

"We are now a country of regions bound together in a global economy," Archer said. "Detroit not only competes with Chicago, Los Angeles and Cleveland, it also competes with Bonn, Tokyo and Melbourne. Because Detroit is in the center of our region, investment into Detroit translates into more prosperity for the region."

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'Gone are the days where leaders could exploit differences in race or ethnicity for local advantage. Those are the acts of the past; They have no place in our future.'

Dennis Archer
—Detroit mayor

ers could exploit differences in race or ethnicity for local advantage. Those are the acts of the past; They have no place in our future."

He also reaffirmed the need for affirmative action. Government

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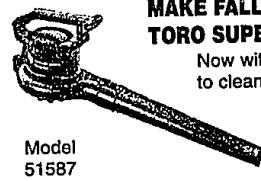
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