

Political power brokers agree on empowerment zone

Gov. John Engler and southeast Michigan's Big Four leaders vowed to do everything they could Thursday to make sure Detroit is one of four cities picked to be a federal empowerment zone.

Engler said Thursday's meeting was the first of what will be a regular gathering at least every three months.

The governor met with Detroit Mayor-elect Dennis Archer, Wayne County Executive Ed McNamara, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and Macomb County Board of Commissioners Chairman Mark Steenbergh.

Patterson said the fact that the five agreed so quickly to work together on the Detroit empower-

ment zone issue showed their commitment to moving the state, region and city forward.

"That's the kind of working relationship we started today. I think it bodes well for the future," he said.

If designated as a federal empowerment zone, part or parts of Detroit would be permitted to offer tax incentives, job training credits and other programs to attract business and jobs.

Archer, whose winning platform focused heavily on building coalitions to help Detroit, said becoming an empowerment zone would be a boost for the city's economy. All five officials would be working together and with the state's congressional delegation on it.

That fits in well with the aggressive pro-business stance Archer's administration will take to bring businesses and jobs back to the city, Archer said. The city has an unemployment rate of about 23 percent.

"We're going to be very competitive. They'd better watch what they've got," Archer said of the jobs in suburban Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Engler and the others described it as a friendly meeting that touched on a series of problems facing southeast Michigan and the rest of the state.

"I don't think we solved any major problems, in fact we might have created a few we didn't know

existed," McNamara said.

Judging from comments at a news conference, the meeting between city and county officials was friendly.

"This looks like the new offensive line for the Detroit Lions," Engler said as he and the others — all except Archer on the heavy side — lined up at the podium.

While they joked and poked fun at each other, the five left no doubt that they're serious about working together to help Detroit, southeast Michigan and the rest of the state.

"We have over half the population of the state in the region," Steenbergh said. I think it does nothing but good to come together

and to try to present a unified front in trying to deal with those kind of issues and creating economic development and jobs for our people."

Archer said it was the start of a working relationship that puts all the people of the state of Michigan first.

Along with the title of mayor, Archer will inherit an \$88.5 million deficit when he is sworn into office in January. He said he will also ask Lansing for help in deal-

ing with the deficit. The city budget is about \$2 billion.

Whether I have knee pads or not, I will be up to Lansing to seek their assistance," he said.

Engler, who has dealt with state deficits over the past three years, said the state could help Detroit cope with that deficit without any extra spending. He added that he's willing to work with Archer to balance the city's books.

Examinations set for Ireland, Carlin

BY JAY GROSSMAN
STAFF WRITER

Rochester Hills Mayor Billie Ireland has said wants her day in court.

Now she's going to get it.

A preliminary examination is set for the mayor before 52-3 District Court Judge Ralph Nelson. Ireland is charged with four felonies and two misdemeanors based on accusations she made illegal overtime payments to Oakland County Sheriff's Sgt. Gerard Carlin, the former commander of the Rochester Hills substation.

Examinations also are scheduled for Carlin and Doris Keydon, a former aide to Ireland who faces the same felony and misdemeanor counts as the mayor.

Carlin, who was demoted and is now suspended without pay from the sheriff's department, faces 33 criminal counts. The charges range from accepting illegal overtime to ordering executives to chaffer County Executive L. Brooks Patterson during his 1992 campaign.

Nelson met with the defendants in special session Saturday to rule on several preliminary motions. He then scheduled five

days for the examinations, from Feb. 28 to March 4.

Afterward, the mayor appeared confident the charges against her eventually will be dismissed.

"Quite frankly, what I'm really after is complete vindication. So I'm looking forward to the preliminary exam," she said.

Carlin also maintained his innocence. On Saturday, he suggested that he became a target of investigation only after he recommended eliminating the elite Fugitive Apprehension Team in budget talks last year.

"I recommended the FAT team be disbanded, and it's the FAT team who investigated me. It doesn't take a brain surgeon to put the two together," he said.

Attorneys for the three defendants tried to convince Nelson to dismiss the arrest warrants because a circuit court judge neglected to record the proceedings when he signed the warrants.

Nelson agreed there was a violation of the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, in which search and seizure is regulated. But the judge said it wasn't intentional, nor does it appear to affect the case.

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