

# PRESS & GUIDE

## Dearborn conference center talks 'moving along'

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DEARBORN - Officials in the city of Dearborn continue to look at ways to attract new consumers and businesses.

One thing that could help attract consumers and businesses, Dearborn Mayor Jack O'Reilly said last month, is a conference center, which would be constructed directly east of the Hyatt. The center, O'Reilly said, would have a capacity of between 1,600 and 1,800 and would be able to support a number of regional conferences.

O'Reilly April 16 said he has met with brass from Ford Motor Land and the Hyatt Regency-Dearborn to discuss the prospects of the conference center. He added money the city could receive from President Barack Obama's stimulus plan could fund the project.

"We're looking into getting naming rights and some other things," O'Reilly said last week.

O'Reilly added that with the economy in the state its in, not a lot of projects of this ilk are being talked about, He said having a project of this magnitude off and running would allow the city to take advantage once the economy rebounds.

"Having a convention center in the city would bring in about \$137 million a year of people needing meeting space and other things," O'Reilly said. "About \$88 million of that would be out-of-state money.

"Having a conference center would help our other businesses, like Fairlane Town Center, succeed," O'Reilly said.

The mayor also said the conference center could bring in millions in revenue, along with 93,000 sold hotel rooms a year.

"People would come in to shop and eat. We're 10 minutes away from the airport. We have hockey, baseball and even football," O'Reilly said, poking fun at the awful Detroit Lions.

"I think something like that would be very successful. It's not pie in the sky, either. It's very viable."