



Michigan Supreme Court Denies Application for Appeal of Royal Oak Civic Center Project

ROYAL OAK, Mich. (May 29, 2019) – The Michigan Supreme Court issued an order today denying a request from a group of Royal Oak business and property owners to hear an appeal from the dismissal of a lawsuit filed against the City of Royal Oak over the Royal Oak Civic Center project (otherwise known as the Rethink Royal Oak project). The group’s lawsuit against the new office building, City Hall, Police Station and a brand-new community park, as well as a 581-space parking garage in downtown Royal Oak opening June 1, was previously heard and rejected by judges in Oakland County Circuit Court and the Michigan Court of Appeals.

Corp One, Inc.; Corp One Property Company, LLC; Dixie Moon Saloon, LLC; Group 225, Inc.; Little Tree Sushi Bar, Inc.; M&R Realty 111 South Main, LLC; The Nash Family Limited Partnership; One Hundred Seven South Main, LLC; R&M Realty, LLC; Sullivan Investment Group Limited Partnership; and Third Street Properties, Inc. were plaintiffs in the lawsuit and the most recent appeal, which has created delays and cost Royal Oak residents and taxpayers a significant amount.

“Despite obstacles, the development has continued as planned and we’re 40 percent complete,” said Royal Oak City Mayor Mike Fournier. “We remain dedicated to providing transparent updates to local businesses and residents and will continue to keep them apprised of the project’s continuing progress.”

Current construction is well underway for the City Hall and Police Station and both are projected to be completed in 2020. The office building, to be occupied by Henry Ford Health System, is expected to open in mid-2020 and bring more people to downtown Royal Oak during the workday.

“While this decision was expected, we’re glad to put this distraction behind us,” said Boji Group President and a Partner in the Central Park Development Group Ron Boji. “We’ve remained committed to the vision of the city and the impact this transformational project will have on downtown, bringing more foot traffic and parking capacity that will benefit local businesses. We’re proud to contribute to making Royal Oak an ideal place to live, work and play.”

More than a dozen downtown Royal Oak businesses have opened throughout the duration of the development project or are in the process of opening such as: Freshii, Vera Asian and more. With the re-opening of I-696, visitors have an easier route to patronize these new, invigorating businesses.

“The City of Royal Oak has been an informative ally throughout the development project,” said Toyology Toys Owner Aric Klar. “We have successfully partnered on several community events to keep downtown a destination area and communicate development updates to residents and visitors like I Dig RO and a Small Business Saturday gathering. I feel that my relationship with the City has strengthened throughout the project.”

Once the current City Hall and Police Station are vacated and demolished, construction will begin on a new two-acre downtown park in its place. Consultants from Nowak & Fraus and LAP Inc. hosted multiple engagement sessions and received input from more than 1,500 Royal Oak residents. [These results were compiled and released](#). The park designer, MKSK [has been selected](#) to begin the next phase of planning.

“The goal of the development is to better cater to the public,” said Royal Oak City Economic Development Manager Todd Fenton. “The parking garage will allow easier navigation downtown starting June 1. The new City Hall will provide meeting spaces, higher energy efficiency, an increase in accessibility, and new modern technology for the community. The Police Station will allow Royal Oak Police to better serve our neighborhoods. We want to ensure that we can provide the best resources and services to Royal Oak residents, and this development will aide us in achieving just that.”

Learn more about the project, view building renderings and more at www.rethinkro.com.

About Royal Oak

Royal Oak is a vibrant metro Detroit community home to nearly 60,000 residents located in Oakland County. Destinations within the 12-mile community include The Detroit Zoo, The Royal Oak Music Theatre, William Beaumont Hospital, Mark Ridley’s Comedy Castle and a successful Farmer’s Market among others. The city’s recreational services include more than 50 public parks and was recently named one of the Top 10 Most Exciting Small Cities in America by Movoto and the Best Place to Live in Michigan by AreaVibes. To learn more about Royal Oak, visit <https://www.romi.gov>.

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