



DANIEL HORRIGAN, MAYOR

News Release

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Summit County, City of Akron, United Way of Summit County, and Akron Public Schools Partner in Land and Building Deal

In a multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency collaboration, land and buildings in downtown Akron will find new use. In a ‘round-robin’ land deal, Summit County, The City of Akron, The United Way of Summit County, and Akron Public Schools (APS) are exchanging and selling properties in an effort to meet growing needs and spur new development.

“This is what happens when we bring together forward-thinking and community-committed leaders,” said Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro. “This agreement benefits all of the partners and most importantly, the community as a whole.” Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan added, “This initiative highlights what we do best in this community and that is to work collaboratively, think creatively and come up with solutions that move us all forward.”

To begin the chain of events, Summit County will sell the Sojourner Truth Building located at 37 North High to the United Way. The \$1.75 million dollar price will be paid out to the County with a portion up front followed by a ten-year payment through a zero interest loan. “Relocating to the Sojourner Truth Building will help United Way grow to meet the needs of our community,” said United Way Director Jim Mullen. He added, “The move will allow us to make another key investment in the Greater Akron community and we are working with steadfast partners who, like us, are committed to the health of the county’s urban core.”

Once in the Truth Building, the United Way plans to add additional staff to continue to effectively serve the Summit County community. Additionally, the United Way will be selling its existing facility to an undisclosed business that will move its operations to northern downtown Akron. Both the United Way and the undisclosed business intend to be in their new homes later in 2018.

To accommodate the United Way’s new location at the Sojourner Truth Building, the County and APS will also swap parking lots located in the northern end of downtown Akron. Through that swap, the County will trade parking lots that it no longer uses along North Broadway Street for parking owned by APS and immediately adjacent to the Sojourner Truth Building. Once acquired by the County, that lot will then be combined with the Truth Building and transferred to United Way as part of its complete campus.

The deal also includes important land swaps between the City of Akron and APS that will clear the way for APS relocation to 10 North Main Street, which SummaCare will be vacating later this year. The City of Akron will transfer its parking lots adjacent to 10 North Main to APS and in exchange, APS will transfer both the former Perkins Middle School and former Crosby Elementary sites to the city. “As we consolidated our schools to meet the changing population, we focus now on consolidating our administration,” said Akron Public Schools Superintendent David James. “We appreciate our partners working with us to find creative solutions and help us remain accessible to our students and their families by staying downtown.”

The final piece of the puzzle to fall in place will be the City partnering with Alpha Phi Alpha homes to develop the former Perkins Middle School site into a market-rate single family housing development. “This project will further the City of Akron’s mission to incentivize the new housing opportunities needed to grow the city’s population and keep and attract talent locally,” Akron Planning Director Jason Segedy said of the project. Subject to a City Council approval, Alpha Phi Alpha Homes Inc. intends to develop the 11-acre site into approximately 90 homes that will sell for \$175,000 to \$200,000, and take advantage of the City’s new residential tax abatement program.



The Sojourner Truth Building, 37 North High Street

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