



12650 DETROIT AVENUE • 44107 • 216/521-7580 • FAX 216/521-1379 • www.onelakewood.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NEWS FROM THE
OFFICE OF
COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

March 9, 2009

SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE TO REMAIN IN LAKEWOOD

On Monday, March 9, 2009, Mayor Ed FitzGerald and Congressman Dennis J. Kucinich held a joint press conference to announce that the Social Security Administration (SSA) Office will remain in Lakewood. The SSA will be relocating from their current site at Lakewood Center North to a new site located at 17513 Detroit Avenue. This is the current site of Lakewood Christian Church. SSA had been looking for a new site since 2002 and searched all of the western suburbs. Congressman Kucinich and Mayor FitzGerald strongly advocated for them to stay in Lakewood.

Lakewood will benefit by retaining 100 jobs and keeping the \$4.4 Million payroll in Lakewood. In addition, the sale of the church will turn this non-taxable property into a taxable property. Lakewood will gain from more than \$120,000 in new property tax for the city and the schools.

The site will be redeveloped into a one story building to house the Social Security Administration Field Office. This is a \$5 Million dollar development project and the Social Security Administration is projected to move in 2010.

“This is great news for Lakewood,” stated Mayor Ed FitzGerald. “I want to thank Congressman Kucinich and our Planning and Development Department for working so hard to keep the Social Security Office here in Lakewood.” “In these tough economic times, we are happy to be retaining these jobs and gaining the additional tax benefits of turning this site into a taxable property.”

In 2002, the Social Security Administration announced that they would be seeking a new location to meet their needs and they would be searching the entire west side of Cleveland. Congressman Kucinich persuaded the Social Security Administration to strictly adhere to Executive Order 12072, giving local officials greater influence in locating federal offices, and limiting their search to Lakewood. They searched for 7 years to find a suitable location in Lakewood and were having difficulty finding a location to meet all of their needs. In early 2008, the City of Lakewood’s Planning and Development Department made it a priority to find the Social Security Office a new home within Lakewood. Within six months, the City found three potential sites which met the needs of the Social Security Administration and would be beneficial for Lakewood.

###

For more information, contact Planning & Development Director Nathan Kelly at (216) 529-6630.



12650 DETROIT AVENUE • 44107 • 216/521-7580 • FAX 216/521-1379 • www.onelakewood.com

SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE TO REMAIN IN LAKEWOOD FACT SHEET

- General Services Administration (GSA) has announced that a site in Lakewood will be the new home of the west side Social Security Administration (SSA) Field Office.
- Expected to open as early as **April 2010**, SSA will occupy a new building at 17513 Detroit, the current location of the Lakewood Christian Church. Earlier this year, the congregation voted to accept an offer from a private developer to purchase the property for the SSA Field Office.
- Since 2002, SSA has planned to leave their current offices in the Lakewood Center North Building. Their search for a new site included all of the western suburbs. Congressman Kucinich and Mayor FitzGerald strongly advocated to keep the SSA in Lakewood.
- The city worked hard to find and propose multiple sites in Lakewood that fit their needs. One of those proposed sites was chosen by GSA.
- Retaining the SSA **retains \$4.4 million dollars in payroll** and currently **100** employees for Lakewood.
- SSA wanted to move to expand, with the ability to accommodate 160 employees. This move allows for that growth, and also converts about two acres of property tax free land to tax productive. Since the office will be owned by a private company with SSA as a tenant, the owners will pay an estimated **\$120K in new property tax**.

Estimated retained and new benefit is listed below.

Tax Benefit	
Annual Property Tax Benefit:	\$119,700
One Time Sales Tax Benefit:	\$150,000
Annual Income Tax Benefit*:	\$240,240

Community Benefit	
State:	\$284,240 (includes one time \$150K sales tax)
County:	\$60,672
City:	\$87,295
School District:	\$74,525
Library/Metroparks/Transit/Other:	\$3,208

Total Project Tax Benefit	
Total Annual Tax Benefit:	\$359,940
One Time Sales Tax Benefit:	\$150,000