

## **STATEMENT ON PLANNED SUPER K-MART AT THE BONNIE BROOK GOLF CLUB SITE**

Nov. 22, 2000

Today a majority of City Council voted to approve a zoning ordinance and other legislation that will facilitate construction of a Super K-Mart at the site of the Bonnie Brook Golf Club on Telegraph and 8-Mile Roads. Despite the clear need for increased retail development within our city, other concerns forced me to vote no on this proposal.

This project has been mired in controversy since its inception and has generated a tremendous amount of opposition from residents who live near the site. Though neighbors raised concerns about increased crime, noise, and traffic, the major concern has been with the fact that this site is a flood plain. Some neighbors have said they fear that building a K-Mart on this site will increase flooding in the area immediately adjacent to Bonnie Brook, damaging their homes.

To its credit, K-Mart invested a tremendous amount of time and money analyzing the flood plain to determine its store's potential environmental impact. The company's plans to build a detention basin that would place no additional pressure on the city's water and sewerage lines are to be commended.

But ultimately, significant questions about storm water runoff and how homeowners would be compensated if they did sustain damage that was traceable to K-Mart were not answered to my satisfaction. While I applaud K-Mart's prior investment in Detroit and its plans to build and open additional stores here, the potential impact on the environment and on nearby homes must be weighed carefully. Because the company's plans did not make me 100% comfortable, I had to vote "no" on this project.