



City of Detroit
CITY COUNCIL

KENNETH COCKREL JR.
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
June 30, 2006

For more information:
Contact: (313) 224-4505

**STATEMENT ON THE SALE OF RACKHAM GOLF COURSE COUNCIL
PRESIDENT KENNETH V. COCKREL, JR.**

Today, the Detroit City Council voted on the proposed sale of the Rackham Golf Course in Huntington Woods.

I joined with the majority of Council in voting against this proposed sale. I voted against this sale for the following reasons:

First, the Mayor and the City Council have not had a policy discussion about the sale of this or any of the other city-owned golf courses. The Kilpatrick Administration has indicated that it wants the City to move towards a core service model meaning that it will focus primarily on providing only charter-mandated services like police, fire, street repair, etc., etc.

While I support this overall direction, I believe the City should not rush to sell all of its assets without a comprehensive plan. It is also worth noting that the Rackham Golf Course has been consistently profitable for the City.

Secondly, the Administration initially proposed to sell this property to a private developer, Premium Golf for \$5 million up front with additional dollars to come later on a per unit basis as the developer builds homes on this site. I am concerned that this offer was accepted in the absence of a formal bid process. When one considers that this 18-hole golf course is prime real estate located in Oakland County, one of the nation's wealthiest counties, approving this deal without competitive bidding is irresponsible.

Simply put, the lack of a bid process means that the City has no way of knowing if it has gotten the highest and best offer.

Thirdly, and related to my second concern, the Kilpatrick Administration did not secure its own appraisal of this land. In fact, the only appraisal of the property was done by the buyer, Premium Golf. For the City to accept this would have meant that it was essentially allowing the buyer to name the sale price.

Lastly, though the property is owned by Detroit, it's located in Huntington Woods. The Kilpatrick Administration proposed to sell this property without any conversation with Huntington Woods officials. This does little to enhance communication and dialog between the two cities.

For these and other reasons, I voted no on the sale of the Rackham Golf Course to Premium Golf.