



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Frank G. Jackson

From: **Office of the Mayor**

Andrea V. Taylor, Press Secretary
Office of the Mayor
(216) 664-4171 or (216) 857-7998

Maureen R. Harper, Chief of Communications
Office of the Mayor
(216) 664-4011 or (216) 857-3301

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Mayor Jackson Unveils his Plan for Cleveland's Downtown Lakefront

CLEVELAND – Today, Mayor Frank G. Jackson unveiled his Plan for Cleveland's Downtown Lakefront, detailing a vision of mixed-use development from the western edge of Cleveland Browns Stadium to the eastern edge of Burke Lakefront Airport. Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority President & CEO Will Friedman, Fred Nance, General Counsel for the Cleveland Browns and other community stakeholders attended the presentation at Cleveland City Hall.

“This plan will redefine Cleveland as a city that emanates from Lake Erie whether through commercial maritime activity and business opportunities or through public access for recreation and entertainment,” said Mayor Jackson. “We will transform Cleveland into a city connected to its lakefront and all the opportunities and amenities it can afford.”

The groundwork for this plan was laid by two key decisions: Mayor Jackson's decision in 2007 to keep Burke Lakefront Airport open as a general aviation airport and the Port Authority's decision this year to right-size its operations at its current location. The City's Department of Port Control contracted with EE&K Architects to develop the plan over the last 18 months.

Mayor Jackson's plan for Cleveland's Downtown Lakefront creates three distinct development areas: Harbor West, North Coast Harbor and the Burke Development District area and calls for 1.5 million square feet in new development, including office space, a hotel, green space, restaurants, retail space, recreational boating and a transient marina. It builds upon existing infrastructure and assets, including the Browns Stadium, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, the Great Lakes Science Center and Burke Lakefront Airport and creates public space that can be programmed for special events and activities.

To move the plan forward, four pieces of legislation will be introduced to Cleveland City Council this evening and the plan will be presented to the City Planning Commission on Friday, November 18. These ordinances, once approved, will give the City of Cleveland's Department of Port Control, clear direction for managing city-owned land along the lake. Similarly, the ordinances delegate responsibilities for key infrastructure maintenance activities within the harbor, including the Cuyahoga River (within the county) and Lakefront to the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority.

“The Port Authority is excited to work with the City of Cleveland on these initiatives, which set the stage for new development on the lakefront and critical infrastructure improvements along the Cuyahoga River’s navigational channel,” said Will Friedman, President and CEO of the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority. “We share the Mayor’s vision for a vibrant waterfront that boasts both a working port and mixed-use development. We believe the plans and proposals announced today are critical to turning his vision into reality.”

The conceptual plan could result in more than a billion dollars of investment in Cleveland and will create opportunities for significant public-private partnerships.

“The Browns believe that a revitalized waterfront will enhance the experience of everyone coming to downtown Cleveland. Mayor Jackson’s plan is a positive step in the process of developing the Lakefront District - one of our city's greatest assets. We feel that with all of our Lakefront neighbors working together, we can make this happen,” said Mike Holmgren, President of the Cleveland Browns.

EE&K Architects, working with the Departments of Port Control and City Planning, sought input and feedback from Cleveland’s lakefront stakeholders. The public process will continue over the next three months with public forums as well as public hearings with Cleveland City Council and the City Planning Commission.

“A development effort of this magnitude and significance must reflect a consideration of the interests of the many stakeholders that will live with the outcome. This plan reflects such an effort,” said Ricky Smith, Director of the Department of Port Control.

Director Smith worked closely with City Planning to ensure that the lakefront plan dovetailed with the *Connecting Cleveland 2020 Citywide Plan* that was adopted by the City Planning Commission in 2007.

“Cleveland's Citywide Plan proposes to rebuild Cleveland on the foundation of its great assets. The lakefront plan does just that by reconnecting Cleveland to its greatest asset -- Lake Erie,” said Bob Brown, Director of City Planning.