



City of Toledo  
Toledo, Oregon

**For Immediate Release:**

Toledo, Oregon – City considering acquisition of Former Columbia Bank building

The City of Toledo has entered into negotiations to purchase the former Columbia Bank building located at 222 NE Highway 20 in Toledo, Oregon.

The City is negotiating for purchase of the property for future use as a public safety building to house the Toledo Police Department, 911 dispatch center. The current facility housing the Police Department was acquired by the City in 2001, and intended to be temporary location for the Police Department given its location in the 100 Year Flood Plain as well as the tsunami inundation zone. Additionally, in the 15 years since moving into the facility, the Police Department has developed additional space needs primarily for the proper handling and storage of evidence, and the safe proper processing of persons arrested and or detained before being processed through the local facility.

The City has looked at this facility as an option previously, said Craig Martin, Toledo's City Manager. "An opportunity to possibly acquire the building came up and the City expressed an interest in pursuing that opportunity leading up to the possible purchase of the building." Relocation of the Police Department was also identified as the desired option in the City of Toledo 2012 Building Facilities Plan. Martin further stated it has been identified as a priority for the City to "explore options to provide an adequate facility to house Police and emergency dispatch services", stated Martin, quoting from the City of Toledo's 2017 – 2018 Adopted City Goals. Bob Nelson, Senior Vice President of Special Credits, representing the seller Columbia Bank agreed that "both parties have been very supportive and understanding of each other's interests in this facility, and remain mutually supportive of the City's effort to acquire it and return it to beneficial use for the citizens of Toledo".

"Due to the need to protect the business and financial interests of both parties, the City and Seller are not able to disclose all details of the potential purchase," Martin said, until the City has completed its 90 day review period called for in the agreement. The review period commonly referred to in real estate transactions as the "due diligence period," is to allow the City an opportunity to more thoroughly review the suitability and potential costs of acquiring and renovating the structure for the City's desired use.

Mayor Smith Stated the City is "definitely interested in pursuing this opportunity to provide a more suitable location for the Police Department, especially since the Department houses the 911 Emergency Dispatch and serves as a Primary Public Safety Answering point (PSAP) for local emergency services".

Police Chief Dave Enyeart is supportive of the City's pursuit of this option as it would "provide a more secure, suitably located facility that could accommodate future space needs over a 25 – 30 year period" for the Department. He further stated "as recent as last fall, we were inundated by flood waters during a big rain storm event and high tidal surge which threatened to flood the facility and making access to the building difficult. During the storm and tide event the Police Department was forced to relocate their police vehicles to higher ground to prevent water damage. The Department also had to provide sandbags to keep floodwaters from compromising the emergency generator that provides backup power to the department. Unfortunately, it will most likely be during times of disaster situations like floods that we will need to have the facility fully operational. The possible move to a facility located outside of the flood and tsunami inundation zone is definitely a benefit of the new location," said Enyeart.

During the review period the City will be able to make a more formal assessment of the necessary repairs and renovations and costs of same to not only acquire but also repurpose the building from its former use as a bank building to a suitable structure to house emergency services.

Martin estimates that the review period will likely be completed by mid - July 2017 at which time the City Council will make a final decision regarding the acquisition the building.

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