

Businesses asked what Rochester needs

The Daily Record Staff

(The Daily Record of Rochester, May 29, 2008) – Rochester, NY – A commercial developer is holding focus group discussions this week to gain insight on the types of businesses needed in the Four Corners district of downtown Rochester.

Traikos Development LLC plans to begin rehabilitating the Academy Building at 13 Fitzhugh St. later this summer for commercial tenants and luxury residential apartments. The mixed-use project is expected to be ready for occupancy by May 2009, with 21,000 square feet of office and retail space.

The late 19th century Gothic Revival building has been featured by the Landmark Society of Western New York as a major work by local architect Andrew Jackson Warner. It was built in 1872 and served as the city's only high school for 30 years. It became the Municipal Court and Education Building in 1904 and served as headquarters for the Board of Education from 1926 until 1979. In 1981, new owners transformed the interior with a central sky lit atrium.

George Traikos, president of Traikos Development, scheduled three focus groups this week to elicit input about what types of services and retailers are missing from downtown Rochester. The groups represent local business people, government employees, administrators and county officials.

"The purpose is to increase the size of the pie, and be smart about the development," Traikos told The Daily Record. "The Academy Building is a very important building for downtown Rochester. ... I want everybody to gain in this. "

After the first focus group on Tuesday, Traikos said several people commented on the lack of dining options and basic services like dry cleaning.

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