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## Richmond Heights again delays vote on Hadley development

By Margaret Gillerman

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**RICHMOND HEIGHTS** — After meeting more than 2½ hours in closed session, the Richmond Heights City Council on Monday night decided to again postpone its decision on whether to give a developer an extension on obtaining financing for the \$200 million Hadley Township redevelopment project.

The council will meet again Jan. 20. Council members said they wanted to work out new language with Michelson Commercial Realty and Development to guarantee adequate protections and safeguards for the city and residents.

Michelson has proposed building a mixed-use development with a hotel, retail, offices and homes on about 44 acres on the southeast corner of Highway 40 (Interstate 64) and Hanley Road. The company proposes to buy about 200 properties in the Hadley Township neighborhood, but hasn't secured financing. Michelson blames tight credit markets.

Residents are divided on whether they want the city to grant the extension. The council has delayed a vote on an extension several times. Residents have been uncertain about the future of their homes since the city granted Michelson development rights in February 2006.

"At this point, I'm against extension," resident Joyce Calvin said. "I'm tired of being on a seesaw. The developers had all this time. He should have had the loan before the decline of the economy."

But Gwen Jenkins, another resident, said the city may as well grant the extension. She said trying to find another company would delay redevelopment of the area more.

Council members Timothy Gallagher and Gina Mitten said they could not support an extension unless there were stronger guarantees Michelson would purchase all the homes in the proposed development area and build the entire project.

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