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## ***News Release***

**Date:** May 5, 2016  
**Subject:** City of Southfield selects  
OHM Advisors as master  
planner for Northland Center  
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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

# **City of Southfield selects OHM Advisors as master planner for Northland Center**

*City continues to pave the way for redevelopment; perimeter fencing will be erected today*

(SOUTHFIELD, Mich.) — The city of Southfield announced today that it has selected OHM Advisors, an integrated architecture, engineering and planning firm with offices in Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee, as master planner for the redevelopment of the former Northland Center mall at Eight Mile Road and the Lodge Freeway, located in the City’s Downtown Development Authority (DDA) District. The city of Southfield purchased the 114-acre mall property last December to pave the way for redevelopment. The City will demolish the mall and remediate the site which will then be sold to a private developer(s).

Through a published competitive bidding process, the city of Southfield selected OHM Advisors from a field of seven finalists to develop a conceptual market-driven master redevelopment plan. The firm was founded in Detroit in 1962, and in recent years has diversified and expanded its footprint with clients that include Fortune 20 companies, cities and townships, retailers and private developers nationally.

“OHM Advisors is a top-rated architectural, engineering and planning firm,” commented Mayor Ken Siver. “We think the firm’s experience with large, mixed-use projects aligns closely with our ultimate vision for the property that will provide revitalized retail, residential, office and community space on the current site.”

OHM Advisors has assembled a team that not only understands the history of the Northland Center site, but also brings a unique perspective to its development potential. Team members include: OHM – project management, planning & development, civil & transportation engineering; AKT Peerless – environmental

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**Southfield selects OHM Advisors as master planner for Northland Center, *Continued***

engineering; Arcadis – structural engineering; Callison/RTKL – architecture/planning; The Danter Company – market analysis & assessment; Edna Bell – public relations; Ice Miller LLP – economic development incentives/municipal finance; Moncur – branding; and Tom Carter – mixed-use development advisor.

The city of Southfield is committed to finding developers who share its vision for making a site with the storied history of being the first and largest shopping mall in the nation (when it originally opened as Northland Center in March 1954) to again become a destination for residents and visitors alike.

Beginning today through May 9, eight-foot fencing will be erected around the perimeter of the existing site; however, the Regional Bus Transit Center and the City’s Downtown Police Sub Station will remain open and accessible. Employees of St. John Providence Hospital who have been parking at Northland Center will be reassigned to hospital-owned parking spaces.

**Why Northland Center is so important to the City of Southfield**

- Located just north of 8 Mile Road, the border between Detroit and Southfield, it is the important southern entry-way into Southfield from Michigan’s largest city.
- It is adjacent to the Lodge Freeway (M-10), which goes northwest from downtown Detroit through Southfield to West Bloomfield, six miles north of the Detroit/Southfield border.
- The Lodge connects with two other major expressways, the Southfield Freeway and I-696 a few miles north of Northland Center.
- About 140,000 vehicles pass the site daily on the Lodge.
- Northland Center is located just south of City’s marquee cluster of five golden skyscrapers known as the “Golden Triangle” that form the contemporary Southfield Town Center office complex with the Westin Hotel and conference center.

**Background on Northland Center**

- Northland led the way for Southfield to become a major commercial, business and residential center in metropolitan Detroit.
  - When the original center was completed, Southfield’s population was only 25,000. Fifteen years later, the population had grown to 69,000, which is about what it is today (72,000).
  - In addition to its population growth, the Center helped foster enormous office expansion. Today, Southfield boasts more than 27 million square feet of office space, making it one of Michigan’s leading business centers.
- Over the past decade, due to a struggling economy and an aging facility, many Northland Center stores closed. In August of 2014, the mall went into receivership and in March of 2015 the remaining stores were closed.

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