



THE DETAILS

WHY NOW?

Pontiac Voters Spoke Loud and Clear – In an unprecedented vote, 70 percent of citizens overwhelming went to the polls to pass a youth center millage that authorizes the city to fund up to roughly \$900,000 each year, for 10 years – from 2017 to 2026 – **to provide funding for a youth center and programming.** Under state law (MCL 123.461) levied funds can only be used **to operate a center** open exclusively to youths under 21 years of age and aimed at curbing juvenile delinquency within the community. ***Millage funds CAN NOT be used to acquire, build a building or repair an existing one. Legally, millage funds CAN ONLY be used for programming and operating costs.***

Unfortunately, within the last few months, Pontiac has encountered an uptick in violent crime, gun violence, and a record-number of homicides have occurred within the first few months off the new year. The majority of these crimes have been committed involving our youth – both victims and perpetrators. A youth center is desperately necessary! Action is needed, and we need to invest in our children’s future now!

WHY HERE?

The Best to Offer – Wisner Center is a state-of-the-art, viable site that is available to us now. Having recently undergone a \$4.6 million renovation, the facility and grounds are safe, secure, well-lit, ADA compliant, and conveniently located on 21 beautiful acres within the heart of Pontiac. Wisner Center features a high-tech computer lab, recording studio, high speed fiber-optic system, site projectors, spacious community rooms, and expansive outdoor track and fields. The opportunities at Wisner Center are just like our kid’s potential – limitless!

WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

Our Kids Futures Are Priceless – The cost for leasing the Wisner Center is very reasonable considering all the benefits that are included in the lease price which is currently being negotiated. More details will be released as they develop. At this juncture, the projected cost would annually invest valuable dollars into the School District of Pontiac which is the owner of the Wisner property.

IS IT LEGAL?

A Smart “Win-Win” – The School District of the City of Pontiac benefits from this proposal and it is a “Win-Win” for our children and both, the city and school district. Legally, we may enter into contract with their lessee, Wisner, LLC., as the sublessee of Wisner Center.

WHAT ARE THE FUTURE PLANS?

Our Own State-of-the-Art Youth Center – Plans for a City of Pontiac owned and operated Youth Center are underway. Wisner is proposed to be used as the youth center along with proposed satellite gym sites throughout the city. It is also proposed to offer mini-grants to community partners for youth recreation projects.

We hold our children’s future in our hands. Long-term planning for site development, construction, and recreational sustainability take a unified community effort to achieve our dream of a state-of-the-art community center. Let’s start now!