

# JACKSON

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## OFFICIALS PETITION FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE 'OPPORTUNITY ZONES' WITHIN THE CITY OF JACKSON

JACKSON, MI - The city of Jackson may soon have another avenue for new and exciting development projects aimed at helping low- to moderate-income areas in the community.

State and local officials recently worked to identify areas in Jackson that qualify as "Opportunity Zones," census tracts with poverty rates of at least 20 percent that could receive tax incentives through a new federal program.

Those areas - including the majority of Jackson's 1st, 2nd and 5th wards - were recently submitted by Governor Rick Snyder to the U.S. Treasury for review, with a final decision from the federal government scheduled this May.

"City administration and I worked closely with Earl Poleski of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority to identify these zones in Jackson," Mayor Derek Dobies said. "Leveraging this federal program is an excellent way to help Jackson neighborhoods."

Opportunity Zones are a new concept enacted in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The program is designed to incentivize private capital investments in communities across the nation that have been cut off from developments and have experienced a lack of business growth.

Jackson was awarded three zones following a review from state officials.

"With 1,152 eligible census tracts throughout the state, we're very pleased to have been offered three within the city limits," City Manager Patrick Burtch said. "This program is another tool we can use to better the community and is very welcome."

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