



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Another InterNATIONAL Flavor Coming to Silver City District Neighborhood Nuisance Property to Become Colombian Bakery

Another blight becomes a blessing in the Silver City District today, with the unveiling of the latest business to join the multi-cultural commercial district along 'interNational' Avenue. Mayor Tom Barrett, Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker, Alderman Robert Donovan, County Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic and other local officials joined the Layton Boulevard West Neighbors to celebrate the beginning of the renovation project of 3500 W. National Avenue. The building is the future home of Mekato's Colombian Bakery. The bakery will move its Chicago operations to Milwaukee once renovations of the building are complete.

Long the source of neighborhood complaints, the building at the highly visible corner on 35th & National Ave housed several different bars. Business owners and residents identified the building as one that they would like to see renovated to inject new life into the neighborhood. It is a two-story mixed-use building with a commercial space on the first floor and two residential apartments on the upper level. Layton Boulevard West Neighbors, Inc. (LBWN) acquired the building and will renovate the interior and exterior of the property with project costs totaling \$530,000.

"We believe that after a facelift and the addition of a dynamic tenant, this property has the potential to create a catalytic impact on Silver City commercial district," said Charlotte John-Gomez, Executive Director of Layton Boulevard West Neighbors, Inc. "We look forward to the day Mekato's Colombian Bakery moves in and becomes a welcoming gateway for the nearly 45,000 people that travel through this intersection daily."

John-Gomez said the building will be renovated according to the vision created by the owners of Mekato's Columbian Bakery and is expected to spur additional investment in the area. The property is centrally located with 10 minutes driving time to downtown and 5 minutes from Miller Park.

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The Zimmerman Design Group

EXTERIOR VIEW

MUSATO SOUTHWEST MARKET
APRIL 7, 2005



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INTERIOR PERSPECTIVE

MUSATO SOUTHWEST MARKET
MARCH 29, 2005

The City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County partnered with Layton Boulevard West Neighbors, Inc. to make the group's first redevelopment project a successful one. The project was made possible by a \$150,000 grant from the City of Milwaukee and \$100,000 HOLF Loan from Milwaukee County. Other investing partners include Lincoln State Bank, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), and the Helen Bader Foundation

"I congratulate the residents and business owners in the Silver City district for banding together and determining the fate of their neighborhood through hard work and persistence," said Mayor Tom Barrett. "The City of Milwaukee works with groups like Layton Boulevard West Neighbors to foster growth. We are thrilled to welcome Mekato's Colombian Bakery to a street that features an array of businesses owned by people of different ethnicities including Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Hispanic and African-American."

County Executive Walker said, "focusing our efforts on working cooperatively with neighborhood organizations creates an excellent environment for economic development and job growth. The County's no-interest loan is a step toward revitalizing the neighborhood and creating jobs."

Alderman Robert Donovan said the addition of 10 new businesses on National Avenue in the past year is a sure sign of a street that is on an upswing. Recently Silver City became one of four designated districts under the new Main Street Milwaukee program, a revitalization effort that combines public and private dollars in collaboration with a strong neighborhood partner to revive traditional main streets.

"I am excited to welcome Mekato's to the neighborhood," said Alderman Donovan "Their Colombian style bakery will lend itself well to the international flavor of the neighborhood and the renovations to their shop will go a long way in removing the blight from this corner. "

County Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic said Silver City's diversity of restaurants, shops and services should attract employees of future businesses that locate in the nearby Menomonee Valley.

"The renovation which will make this a signature building and the opening of Mekato's Bakery will be a catalyst to this very important economic corridor," said Dimitrijevic. "Silver City is a great place to live, work, own a business, shop, and I am honored to represent this neighborhood."

Renovations on 3500 W. National Avenue begin today with completion expected in late this summer.

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