

THE INSIDER

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Old coke oven site stokes city's interest

Developer Scott Wolstein isn't the only one with an eye on Cleveland's Flats.

The city of Cleveland is looking for state aid to acquire and redevelop 54 acres of Flats land, though for a far different purpose than Mr. Wolstein's planned \$200 million mixed-use project along the Cuyahoga River.

The city plans to ask the state for a \$5 million Ohio Jobs Ready Sites grant to help it clean up the site of a former Arcelor Mittal Steel Co. coke oven on the east side of the Flats. Legislation introduced in Cleveland City Council last week also would commit \$1.5 million of city money to the redevelopment near Harvard Road and Interstate 490. The cleaned-up property then would be marketed to manufacturers or other industrial businesses.

Since the last days of the Jane Campbell administration, the city has been working to create an industrial land bank so that it will have land that a business can buy and build on without the delay of a costly environmental cleanup. Job Ready Sites is a competitive grant program designed to help cities prepare property for development. — *Jay Miller*