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### Lure cast toward Strongsville firm indicates there's life at Cleveland City Hall

Posted by [The editors](#) October 16, 2008 04:45AM

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As mayor, Frank Jackson is often so low-profile we wouldn't be surprised to see his face on a milk carton.

But every now and then Jackson pulls the old rope-a-dope on us, as evidenced by news that the city is studying tax incentives to lure a successful information technology company from Strongsville to the old Aviation High School at Burke Lakefront Airport.

In the wake of the Eaton Corp. debacle, Jackson reacted in stoner style. "The real downside of this, which I do not take lightly, is the loss of a multibillion-dollar company," he told Plain Dealer reporter Henry Gomez. "But if that is the decision, I'm not going to roll over and die."

And yet, it sometimes seems that there's more action in Jackson than he likes to show.

Last year, he made a commitment to keep Burke Lakefront Airport open and use it as a catalyst for other development. That's when MCPc Inc. inquired about the abandoned Aviation High School.

It would be a perfect match on property ripe for redevelopment. MCPc employs about 300 people in offices around the country, but most work out of three Northeast Ohio locations. The company provides information-technology services and products to businesses, and would join a cluster of IT enterprises that are flourishing downtown.

The economic development director in Strongsville is sulking, and making veiled accusations of poaching. But that's a nonstarter. MCPc approached Cleveland, according to the mayor's press secretary.

And, just as significantly, Strongsville has refused to sign a pact Jackson negotiated with other suburbs wherein they agreed not to poach employers in exchange for the city maintaining suburban water lines.

This is not a done deal. The Burke site is one of several that MCPc is considering. Nonetheless, news that Jackson and his top aides have been working at least since July on tax incentives to swing the MCPc deal is a sign that the man may sometimes have a plan.

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