

Strongsville's MCPc Inc. close to deal to move to Cleveland's Burke Lakefront Airport

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Allison Carey/The Plain DealerMCPc Inc. would move to the old Aviation High School under a deal Cleveland City Council members reviewed Wednesday.

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CLEVELAND, Ohio -- The city is on the brink of luring a technology company and its 225 employees from Strongsville to Burke Lakefront Airport.

Cleveland would develop a 100,000-square-foot headquarters at a refurbished Aviation High School for [MCPc Inc.](#) under terms reviewed Wednesday by City Council. The school is on the airport property.

The council has given city officials and company executives permission to complete a 15-year lease and start work on the project. A tax abatement could follow next month.

The deal would be a highlight for Mayor Frank Jackson, who two years ago pledged to keep Burke open as a general aviation facility and surround it with jobs and development. But Jackson could take heat from those who see the move as poaching from the suburbs.

Gene Magocky, Strongsville's economic development director, did not return phone calls Wednesday. [He was not happy last fall](#) when he learned the deal might be in the works.

"What concerns me somewhat is that we talk about regionalism coming out of Cleveland, yet if this is an ongoing situation with the city enticing the company, it's disturbing," Magocky said at the time. "It would be a tremendous loss. Those are all techie jobs."

Cleveland officials contend MCPc executives approached them. Michael Trebilcock, who runs the company, did not return a call Wednesday.

MCPc, which provides information-technology products and services to businesses, has a local payroll of \$11.3 million, Cleveland officials said. The average employee makes \$65,000 a year. That could boost the city's property and income taxes by more than \$5 million over 15 years.

"It's a great deal because you've got an unused facility that is going to be home to high-paying jobs," said Councilman Joe Cimperman, whose ward includes the downtown airport.

MCPc would move into the old high school, also a former homeless shelter, by June 2011. The company could pay more than \$18 million in rent over the length of the lease.

The city plans to pay \$14.3 million in design, construction and other costs. All but \$3 million is to come from a self-sufficient fund that supports airport development. Airport Director Ricky Smith said the city's Department of Economic Development is coming up with the rest of the money.

The package is expected to go before council members next month. A tax abatement on property improvements that MCPc undertakes could be discussed then, too. An early version of the plan called for a 15-year, 68.25 percent abatement.

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