

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **AKT PEERLESS SECURES EPA BROWNFIELDS GRANTS FOR HAMTRAMCK**

AKT Peerless Environmental Services (AKT Peerless) in collaboration with the City of Hamtramck has continued its success in securing EPA Brownfield grants for its clients. On April 7, 2008, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the approval of its Brownfields Program grants. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence of or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant. The EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through its competitive grant programs.

Hamtramck's office of Community and Economic Development applied for the EPA grants in October of 2007, through AKT Peerless for Erik Tungate, the department director at the time. The City applied for a \$200,000 "Hazardous Substances" grant and a \$200,000 "Petroleum" grant. The total amount awarded for the two grants is \$400,000.

The city of Hamtramck is geographically surrounded by the city of Detroit, and Hamtramck's population of 22,000 makes the 2 square mile city the mostly densely populated municipality in Michigan. Hamtramck is an ethnically diverse city, and it functions as a gateway for newly arrived immigrants. The city experienced rapid growth in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century with the establishment of several automobile manufacturing facilities and related suppliers. Today, many of those sites are abandoned, contaminated and obsolete. The city government had minimal resources to address environmental issues until now.

"These grants enable Hamtramck to have sites like the vacant industrial properties on the south end evaluated, giving potential developers a clear understanding of the environmental conditions and facilitating redevelopment." said Mayor Karen Majewski.

Because the city has a Brownfield Redevelopment Authority in place, it can also apply to the state for potential brownfield grants. The EPA grants are expected to serve as a catalyst for revitalizing the broader community, and give the city the opportunity to redevelop its distressed areas.