



#### **Commercial Real Estate**

# Industrial park proposed for Gahanna ∽



Construction equipment sits on a construction site in Dublin. 2019 has brought significant development around Central Ohio. TRISTAN NAVERA

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By Tristan Navera - Staff reporter, Columbus **Business First** 

A Columbus developer wants to put up a new warehouse and office park in Gahanna.

Robert LeVeck of LeVeck Commercial Construction & Development said in an application to the city that the Eastgate Commercial Park could help the city with sorely needed commercial inventory. The project would include a complex of five buildings at 6579 Taylor Road totaling 67,560 square feet of flex warehouse and office space.

The developer wants to build two 21,000square-foot buildings and three 8,520square-foot buildings at the site, which with construction, fixtures and tenant

improvement costs would mean about \$6.6 million in real estate development overall, he wrote to the city.

"The Gahanna flex/industrial market has very little supply and increasing demand for office and warehouse (space)," LeVeck wrote in the application. He didn't respond to a request for further comment.

Gahanna would furnish a 10-year, 100% property tax abatement for the project. The developer estimates the development would be able to support 38 full-time jobs at an average annual salary of \$47,000, or a payroll of \$1.8 million within three years. The abatement would mean \$1.28 million for the property owner and the city would still see \$450,000 in tax payments.

"The developer is seeking to construct these buildings on speculation because there currently is sufficient market demand from businesses for this type of facility," <u>Michael Blackford</u>, Gahanna deputy director of planning and development, wrote in a memo to the city. "(T)he developer is willing to take this risk if the city of Gahanna is willing to provide a property tax abatement for the project."

Blackford also wrote the city will consider creating a tax increment financing district for the project.

Construction is set to begin this month, with completion expected in May 2020.

## The northeast part of

### the market sees some

of the highest demand for industrial space in the city, according to data from Cushman & Wakefield, even when it doesn't compete with the size of the mega-hubs in the southern part of the region. Areas of Gahanna, New Albany and nearby areas have industrial vacancy at 2.4% - lower than anywhere but downtown - while average asking rent is higher than any other part of town at \$4.32 a square foot. New industrial development in the area has been snapped up quickly, such as the new \$30 million, 280,000-square-foot <u>Alene Candles build-</u> to-suit project in New Albany or the 262,400-square-foot speculative warehouse at 870 Claycroft Road that finished this fall.



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