



Obama Commerce official Fernandez visits Detroit

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DETROIT (AP) — A growing information technology sector and involvement by corporate and other leaders have put Detroit ahead of other American cities attempting to reel-in jobs that typically have been outsourced to other countries, the assistant U.S. commerce secretary said Friday.

John Fernandez toured the downtown offices of Quicken Loans, Inc., Compuware Corp. and GalaxE.Solutions, Inc.

GalaxE.Solutions, a provider of software services and IT business support systems, is behind the "Outsource to Detroit" initiative to bring in jobs. The company plans to hire 500 skilled IT workers.

"There may be places where it is happening, but it is not part of a bold strategy like you see here," Fernandez told reporters. "What strikes us as being the real energy here is the huge level of public-private partnerships, the mayor's engagement, members of Congress representing this area and corporate leadership. There is a shared purpose and commitment."

Fernandez said he is looking at the notion of outsourcing from Detroit and areas where his office can "be a better partner" as downtown becomes a hub for technology.

Companies like business software maker Compuware and online retail mortgage lender Quicken Loans have moved their headquarters and hundreds of workers downtown.

GalaxE.Solutions Chair and Chief Executive Tim Bryan visited Washington in April to introduce the "Outsource to Detroit" concept to senior Obama Administration officials at the White House, Department of Commerce, and Treasury Department.

"For the first time ever, when you consider all that this city has to offer — from workforce to infrastructure to geography and political considerations — high level IT, including the health care focused work we are creating, can be done in Detroit more efficiently than an offshore location such as Brazil," Bryan said in a release.

"This represents tremendous opportunity for our region for the future including putting individuals back to work and keeping our college graduates here in Michigan."

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