

Beth L Tashnick

Subject: FW: SAFEbuilt 20th Anniversary Client Highlight - Troy MI
Attachments: Client Spotlight - Troy MI.pdf

From: Scott Martin
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2012 9:21 AM
To: Scott Martin
Subject: SAFEbuilt 20th Anniversary Client Highlight - Troy MI

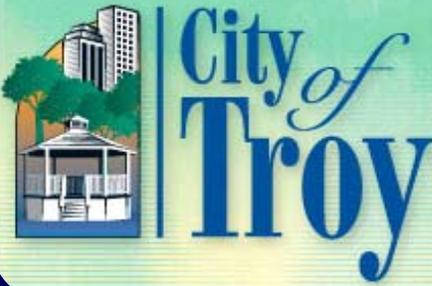
SAFEbuilt® Celebrating 20th Anniversary

SAFEbuilt continues to celebrate our 20-year anniversary. As part of that celebration we will be highlighting one of our community partners each month throughout the year. This month we are highlighting our community partner Troy Michigan. Please take the time to look at the attached spotlight. We appreciate the trust and confidence that of you (our clients) place in us and we value the unique partnership that we have with you all.

Kind regards,

Scott Martin
Business Development
SAFEbuilt®
www.safebuilt.com





Population: 80,980
Year Incorporated: 1955
Acres/Sq. Miles: 34.3 Square miles
Largest business or employer (non-government): William Beaumont Hospital-Troy

Please tell us an Interesting Fact or History about the city

Prior to 1955 the City of Troy was Troy Township. The City of Troy was first settled in the 1820s by pioneers who emigrated from the state of New York. Some came by wagon through Ohio, while others reached Detroit via the Erie Canal and Great Lakes and then trekked overland to Troy Township. The new settlers cleared the forests and sowed their crops. By the 1880s Troy Township was known for its excellent corn, wheat, melons and other fruits as well as wool and dairy products. While the farms were successful, a downtown business district was not developed. Troy lacked sufficient hydropower to operate lumber or gristmills. The Detroit and Milwaukee Railroad was routed through Detroit, Royal Oak and Pontiac, and bypassed tiny Troy Corners at Square Lake Road and Livernois. The Detroit United Railroad did provide electric trolley service through the community between 1898 and 1931. Commercial and industrial development reached Oakland County after World War II. The City of Troy was established as a home rule city in 1955 and during the next 25 years, the community experienced extraordinary growth. Today Troy is a culturally diverse community of over 80,000 residents.

Justin Verlander, Detroit Tiger pitcher, owns a home in Troy. **Balthazar Korab** the world renowned architectural photographer lives in Troy.

Minoru Yamasaki (Yamasaki Associates) designed the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in his summer studio in Troy.

What is the city's proudest accomplishment?

Troy is again ranked Michigan's safest city with a population of at least 75,000, according to a recent report from CQ Press. **It is the 10th time in the past 14 years Troy has been named the safest city in the state.**

Troy Police, however, attribute the city's safety to community partnerships and prevention programs – including the [Troy Community Coalition](#), [Boys & Girls Club](#) and [Troy Youth Assistance](#) – as well as an excellent school system, effective District Court and an active business community.

"It's a combination of the hard work of the police department and the community, the city management, City Council, the funding we get – all those things play into it," Troy Police Chief Gary Mayer said. *"The community places a high value on public safety."*

Mayer goes on to say that the department has made changes over the year to cope with cutbacks, including using technology more, partnering with media and schools and using volunteers from the [Citizens Police Academy](#) to help patrol the city.

"It's partnership," Mayer said. *"We're very happy that we're recognized."*

Looking Back:

When did you first hire SAFEbuilt: July 1, 2010.

How has the city changed since that

year? The Great Recession is subsiding and the building department and SAFEbuilt are very busy.

What is the vision for the city's future? To honor the legacy of the past and build a strong, vibrant future and be an attractive place to live, work and grow a business. Troy's goals are to provide a safe, clean and livable city, provide effective and efficient local government, build a sense of community, as well as attract and retain business investment.

Is there one incident or event that sticks in your mind that really exemplifies the city's relationship with SAFEbuilt? Perhaps it's the event that didn't happen. SAFEbuilt and the City approved a contract for services less than 30 days prior to the start date. This was considerably less than SAFEbuilt requested. Everyone was prepared for a transition with a dense field of moguls. The transition was smooth and zero complaints came to the City Manager's office. In fact it took almost two years for a valid complaint to arise. SAFEbuilt is one of our economic development tools in providing fast, fair and predictable decisions to create an environment for investment. **(Mark F. Miller, Director of Economic and Community Development)**

Quote from Steve Burns, CBO for Troy, Michigan

What do you like about working with the city and/or its citizens?

In the past two years SAFEbuilt has been delivering building department ser-

vices to the City of Troy. I have been impressed by the support of City management and staff. They have agreed with and supported our recommendations on improvements and have helped facilitate those changes. Change can be difficult and uncomfortable but they have really supported changes and improvements to services and how those services are delivered and its benefit to the community. Management also recognizes the importance of the building department in the economic development side of things as well we have been doing our part to help business that are looking to move to Troy or stay in Troy. We are doing a fair amount of special inspections and pre-purchase on site inspections so prospective buyers know what issues they will be running into with occupying a building. It really has been a partnership with the City to make good things happen. Working with the citizens has been great and I like the feedback we receiving from the citizens and the developers. They let you know where they see the improvement and what they would like to see in the future. We receive feedback on a regular basis and work to continually improve.

