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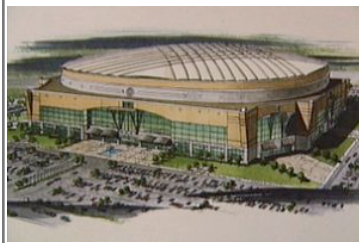


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Company Wants To Build Privately Funded Dome

Tuesday, Jul 31, 2007 - 05:08 PM Updated: 06:42 PM

Photo Video



(Waymaker Enterprises)

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By Andrew Hayenga

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BIRMINGHAM, Ala. -- An Atlanta-based company says it wants to build a new domed stadium and separate arena in Birmingham.

The project is being proposed by Waymaker Enterprises. Their Birmingham megaplex includes plans for a 72,000 seat domed stadium and a 25,000 seat basketball arena.

The project would be privately funded and could be completed without local or state government approval.

The newly announced project is separate and independent from all the others NBC 13 has reported on in recent months and it's part of a larger effort to bring a professional sports team to Birmingham.

The Waymaker megaplex plan was unveiled at an afternoon luncheon Tuesday. State Rep. John Rogers, who helped generate the company's interest in Birmingham, said the project is all but a done deal, as Waymaker can operate independently of local government, purchasing and developing land in Birmingham as it sees fit.

"It's not a situation that we'll need City Council approval or any level of government to sign off on," said Waymaker Enterprises CEO Bobby Taylor.

"We are making a 100 percent effort to get this done. We've worked on this for a year. The parties are coming to the city, looking at the city," said County Commissioner Larry Langford.

Waymaker Enterprises will scout possible locations for its developments, including the stadium, arena, residential and entertainment district in the coming weeks.

The entire development plan, which could begin construction this year, is expected to take between four and eight years to complete.

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