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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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COMMISSIONERS TO HOST PUBLIC BRIEFING ON MEDICAL MART SITE

CLEVELAND – The Cuyahoga County Board of Commissioners will host a public presentation, by Merchandise Mart Properties Inc. (MMPI), on Thursday, February 12, of the company's plans for the proposed Medical Mart and Convention Center on the site of the current convention center in downtown Cleveland.

The presentation will be on:

**Thursday, February 12th, 2009 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.
The Cleveland Public Library auditorium
325 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, OH.**

Officials of Chicago-based MMPI will be on hand to share details about their plans and answer questions from the public about the reasons for the selection of the Mall as the preferred site for the facilities from among three sites studied by local developers and business groups.

Earlier that morning, MMPI officials will provide information at a committee hearing for members of Cleveland City Council, but no questions will be taken from the public or media at that meeting, per standing Cleveland City Council rules and procedures.

On January 22nd the Board of Commissioners tentatively accepted the MMPI Mall as the preferred site for the facility in part because it offered a savings of \$108 million over the Tower City site. The selection of the Mall site is contingent upon independent verification of MMPI's extensive research showing that the foundation of the current convention center may be reused for the new structure and on securing the land. The Commissioners have not made a final decision on the Mall site and have hired Osborn Engineering Inc. to conduct an independent evaluation of the foundation.

If the Mall site is confirmed, MMPI will operate the convention center and conference center, and an adjacent medical equipment and product exhibition facility, and would include utilizing the historic Public Auditorium.