

# Conference center and hotel downtown?

City leaders have long contemplated a hotel and convention center in downtown Rockford. Previous studies have found a need for a convention center, but have shied away from downtown. A new study is considering the feasibility of a hotel and conference center, which at 25,000 to 50,000 square feet, is smaller than full-scale convention center, could fill a niche market and spur economic development. The old Hanley Furniture building, with its close proximity to the MetroCentre, has long been considered ripe for renovation into a 70-plus-room boutique hotel.



## KEY PROPERTIES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| ① Hanley Furniture building           | ⑥ Amerock building                         |
| ② Sammy's Restaurant and Bakery       | ⑦ Tapco building                           |
| ③ Hawks Nest Food and Spirits         | ⑧ Federal courthouse                       |
| ④ MetroCentre                         | ⑨ Public Safety Building                   |
| ⑤ Site of proposed federal courthouse | ⑩ Winnebago County Criminal Justice Center |

Sources: Rockford Area Convention and Visitors Bureau; Register Star archives

ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR