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Josh:

I read Tom Walsh's nice article about you and ePrize in the *Free Press*. Congratulations on all of the success you're having! Keep up the great work!

As someone who has been involved in the SE Michigan cyber-entrepreneur scene for many years, we've met a couple of times at functions. I haven't had major success. I'd always tried to pursue the "product model" as opposed to the "service model," but never created the next Google/Yahoo/Salesforce.com. Also, coming out of college with an econ degree and then taking several years to teach yourself how to program slows things down.

Still, it's been a fun time full of adventures. I look back with fond memories over the years of hanging out with John Lauer when Rootlevel was just him and three friends in a loft above Greektown, doing a big interview with a Canadian journalist and Will Tigert and when Sigma6 was in a loft in Harmonie Park (Will now manages a bar in Manhattan), hobnobbing with venture capitalist at First Tuesday events at SMART Detroit, rushing over to Ann Arbor after work for Ann Arbor IT Zone events, shooting the breeze with Jason Vazzano when Vectorform was just him and some friend in the long, thin, white building in downtown Detroit, and even getting food poisoning at the Blue Chip Interactive launch party at Rumors in Royal Oak

Here's the reason I'm writing. I am a Detroit booster. I love cool urban areas like New York, Chicago, and Washington DC. When I moved to Detroit after I graduated from college, I fell in love with the city's architecture. I moved here in the bad old days with no money. I said I was going to try and turn Detroit from a rundown dump of a city and a black eye on the state of Michigan in to one of America's big, hip, urban areas like it ought to be. My main hobby over the years has been trying to rebuild Detroit.

I am active with this non-profit group Cityscape Detroit, which advocates for good urban planning, adaptive reuse of old buildings, greenspaces, mass transit and the like. See more information at www.cityscapedetroit.org.

I suspect you are not a bureaucrat. I suspect you don't devote your career to creating average value

because you can create big value with the same time and energy. I suspect you are creative, smart, ambitious, confident and live in a world of big ideas.

As ePrize continues to grow, when you outgrow your current space, will you relocate to Detroit?

Will you fix up a beautiful old building downtown into a cool new headquarters? Heck, build a new building on the waterfront if you've got the money. Your success and the city's success would play off of and magnify each other.

Pete Karmanos obviously did it when he built Compuware's new headquarters downtown. He is obviously a smart, mega-successful computer businessman.

EDS and OnStar are also large tech companies that have recently moved downtown.

The cool, energetic, exciting urban environment of a big city like Detroit really resonates with the type of young, creative, entrepreneurial, and technical people that ePrize employs.

E-mail or call me if you have any questions: akoper@ameritech.net or (313) 554-1060

This is an important, powerful idea, and I'd love to see you and the ePrize crew go for it.

On behalf of the board,

Andrew Koper