

**PONTIAC
Phoenix Center
legalities drag on**

The Michigan Supreme Court issued Thursday the latest of eight decisions against the City of Pontiac in its four-year legal battle to raze the downtown's massive Phoenix Center parking deck.

The court denied the city's request to appeal a state Appeals Court ruling in a lawsuit between the city and Ottawa Towers, an office complex attached to the deck.

Lower courts have repeatedly sided with the owner of Ottawa Towers, Chuck Stephens, in his claim that his buildings have easement rights to use the deck that is vital to hundreds of workers in his buildings.

Pontiac's former emergency manager ordered the deck demolished in 2012, saying it was in such disrepair that the city couldn't afford renovations. But Stephens has invested more than \$1 million in upgrading it and will continue to upgrade it if the city drops its lawsuits, he said Thursday.