



# PRESS RELEASE

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## BERRY GORDY MANSION TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE – FIRST TIME ON OPEN MARKET

Birmingham, Michigan, July 8, 2010 - Kelly Sweeney, CEO of Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel, announced today that Kenan Bakirci, a top-producing sales associate in its Birmingham/Bloomfield South office, has been chosen to list the landmark Berry Gordy mansion (aka the Motown mansion) in Detroit. This is the first time the mansion has been offered on the open market. Located at 918 W. Boston Boulevard in the Boston-Edison Historic District, it was for many years the home of Berry Gordy, founder of the Motown music empire.

The Motown mansion has served as a backdrop for members of the political, social and entertainment communities to meet and discuss issues important to the City of Detroit. The mansion had been shuttered for many years before being acquired and restored by the current owners who had it as their mission to allow the mansion to reclaim its status as an important residence in the City of Detroit. From the outset, the mansion has hosted major fundraising events for local charities such as the United Way, Detroit PAL and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Detroit. Since restoring the Mansion, the current owners have hosted political events with Senator Barack Obama, Governor Jennifer Granholm, and Senator Debbie Stabenow, entertainment events featuring jazz recording artist Kem, Martha Reeves and jazz percussionist Roy Ayers; and fundraising events with Academy Award winner Geena Davis, Mayor David Bing, Crain's publisher Mary Kramer, and numerous others.

Among those who have graced the halls of the mansion over the years:

Smokey Robinson, Diana Ross and The Supremes, Billy Dee Williams, Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, The Jackson 5 (Michael, Marlon, Tito, Jackie and Jermaine Jackson), The Four Tops, The Temptations, The Marvelettes, and Martha Reeves and the Vandellas.

Built in 1917 by lumber magnate Nels Michelson, the estate is a testament to Italian renaissance design. It is recognized for its stunning Old World craftsmanship, from the black walnut paneled living room, to the carved quarter-sawn oak library. It boasts a marble-columned grand ballroom, seven separate dining areas, a private gymnasium and fabulous outdoor spaces situated on almost two acres in the City of Detroit. It features a state of the art kitchen facility, five fireplaces, an extensive wine cellar, numerous stained glass windows and antique light fixtures. In addition, it has a miniature nine-hole golf course, a billiards room and a two-lane bowling alley. The 4000-plus poolhouse, with its marble columns, is magnificent.

"This is undoubtedly one of the most impressive residences in the Midwest," said Kenan. "It could be described as Detroit's version of Vanderbilt's Biltmore."

Kenan was chosen as the listing agent not only for his stature in the Detroit real estate community but also for his intimate familiarity with similar residences in Metro Detroit. Kenan sold the Charles Fisher mansion, the B. Seigel mansion, and the Fred Fisher mansion, all within blocks of the Motown mansion, as well as many other significant properties in Detroit's historic neighborhoods."Kenan and his family live in Palmer Woods and have resided in other unique Detroit neighborhoods, among them Indian Village.

A media party is planned to introduce the mansion to a select group of potential buyers and to the press.

*Founded in 1950, Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel is a Birmingham, Mich.-based real estate broker with 11 offices and more than 400 real estate agents in southeastern Michigan. The company's reputation for professionalism, ethics, experience and proven results has fueled its successful growth. For more information, please visit [www.cbweirmanuel.com](http://www.cbweirmanuel.com).*