

Target signs lease for government affairs office

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Target Corp. has signed a lease for a 5,000 square-foot government affairs office at [Douglas Development Corp.](#)'s 1155 F St. NW.

The retail giant has long had a small government relations office in D.C. and will move into the new building from its current space three blocks away at 500 8th St. NW.

Douglas Development's 250,000 square-foot F Street building delivered in spring 2009 and is currently 80 percent leased. The handful of Target staff in town to work with the feds will fill the space in the spring.

"We have an office there to conduct local business and to work with legislators to be part of those discussions," said Jessica Carlson, a spokesperson for Minneapolis-based retailer.

Target is the latest addition to the mix of government affairs, healthcare and law offices in the project including Novo Nordisk, Home Depot and Facebook, which signed a 8,600-square-foot lease for a similar government relations office in November.

"It seems to be a place where a lot of government affairs offices want to

locate," said Norman Jemal, vice president at Douglas. "Having delivered the building in April of 09, which was not a great time in the world, it's been a raging success."

The East End rounded out 2010 with a 10.4 percent vacancy rate, according to Cushman and Wakefield data, lower than the overall citywide vacancy rate of 12.6 percent.

Government affairs groups contributed to the tightening market in 2010, a trend real estate experts expect to continue into 2011.

Target's sales climbed 4.3 percent to \$51.52 billion through the end of November. Locally it has retail stores in Columbia Heights, Alexandria, Falls Church.

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1155 F St. NW