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Sustainable Port Chester Alliance Marches On, Citing Accomplishments at Starwood Development

PORT CHESTER, NY - Building on its successful campaign to extract concessions from Starwood Capital that benefit the community, Sustainable Port Chester Alliance (The Alliance) has no plans to rest now that the Port Chester Board of Trustees has approved the final findings statement and granted the zoning changes requested by the developer. This happened only after some big changes were made from Starwood's original plans precisely because of the pressure and grassroots campaign by the Alliance.

"We didn't get everything we wanted," said Joan Grangenois-Thomas, "But when you look at what the developer was offering the Village at the beginning of this process and where it ended up, the needle moved in the right direction. It was night and day."

The Alliance's campaign has been crucial in securing meaningful community benefits at the project, including:

- 36 units of affordable housing;
- Vital increases in Starwood's contributions to Port Chester's schools and Village services, including a \$26 million increase in the 20-year payments in lieu-of taxes proposed by the developer, as well as a commitment by Starwood to reimburse the school district if the number of school-age children living in the project exceeds the number projected;
- A \$3 million "density bonus fee" paid by Starwood to a community planning and rehabilitation fund dedicated to creating or rehabilitating affordable housing in Port Chester.

In addition, the Alliance's engagement around the United Hospital project led the Port Chester Industrial Development Agency (IDA) to adopt a new policy to promote the hiring and training of local workers and mandate labor protections at projects subsidized by the agency. The policy will serve as a building block for future campaigns to ensure that tax-payer subsidized development in Port Chester generates well-paid careers for Port Chester residents.

"None of those things happen without the presence of the Sustainable Port Chester Alliance," said State Senator George Latimer (D-Rye). He went on to say, "They really taught us all in the community a valuable lesson, if you fight for issues you believe in and work together you can win"

The Alliance is not resting, though. Port Chester's working families and communities of color still have much to fight for as the village continues to welcome rapid economic development. Issues the Alliance plans to take on are access to good jobs and training for Port Chester residents, protection of immigrant rights, support for small business, construction of public spaces for the community, and civic engagement training.

“It is an aggressive agenda, but this is exactly what Port Chester needs. We want Port Chester to grow and evolve and entice new businesses and residents. We also want to make sure that the rights and needs of our current residents are not trampled on. We are here to make sure the Village strikes that right balance,” said Tom Kissner President of the Sustainable Port Chester Alliance Board of Directors.

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About Sustainable Port Chester Alliance

The Alliance is a coalition of faith, civic and labor organizations, and community members, committed to building the power to secure responsible development, affordable housing, good jobs, and to safeguard human and civil rights in Port Chester.