

Housing Authority of the City of Bridgeport



Nicholas Calace, *Executive Director*

Press Release

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Impressive finalists chosen for development of the ten-acre Pequonnock site adjacent to the Ballpark and Arena at Harbor Yard in Bridgeport

Top international developers, including a group which includes Magic Johnson, are among the finalists chosen by the City of Bridgeport and the Bridgeport Housing Authority to submit proposals to develop the ten-acre Pequonnock Site, adjacent to the Harbor Yard Ballpark and Arena in Downtown Bridgeport.

City and Bridgeport Housing Authority officials are impressed with the high level of developers interested in the Bridgeport project. Mayor John Fabrizi says, "The publicly-owned vacant land adjacent to the city's baseball stadium and multi-purpose arena represents one of the city's best development opportunities."

"I am extremely pleased with the caliber of all of the teams that responded to the RFQ", said Nick Calace, Executive Director of the Housing Authority. "All of the finalists have significant track records and represent some of the best development entities in the nation. This is another indication that Bridgeport has turned the corner and is headed in the right direction."

The City and the Housing Authority envision a project that will enhance the downtown's visibility and skyline while providing for a pedestrian friendly "Camden Yard-like" atmosphere at street level. "We want a project that creates a special sense of place with the nearby sports and entertainment facilities," said the mayor. "I am very pleased with the fact that all of the firms selected are looking at implementing the vision set forth in the Bridgeport Downtown Master Plan, which should be released shortly".

"All four of the development teams that have been asked to submit proposals in the second stage of this process have significant experience in urban redevelopment, and have presented us with evidence of work on similar projects in other areas," said Kevin Nunn, President of the Bridgeport Economic Resource Center, which is managing the RFQ/RFP process for the City and the Housing Authority. The concept plans that were included in the RFQ submissions call for residential, entertainment, hotel, retail, office and entertainment space.

The development teams selected are:

- TDC Development and M Squared Development
- Harbor Yard Partners, which includes Black Rock Investors, Urban Equity Partners, and Urban Green Builders

- Canyon-Johnson Urban Fund, Vornado Realty Trust, and Mid-City Legacy
- Opus, The Richman Group and Archstone-Smith

“The site provides for direct access to the I-95 entrance and exit ramps, proximity to the city’s intermodal transportation facility, potential views of Long Island Sound and two million square feet of development rights,” said Nunn.

Responses to the RFP will be due on May 2; an announcement of the selected preferred development team will be made on or about June 15. The finalists were selected from a field of five that responded to a Request for Qualifications issued jointly by the City and the Housing Authority in November.

Reporters are encouraged to check the finalists websites and contact finalists directly.