

Memo on Youth Opportunity Center Project at Former YMCA Site in City of Poughkeepsie

February 24, 2021

We are excited to provide this update on the youth center project at the former YMCA site – and to confirm our continuing commitment to move forward with this important endeavor for the community.

We believe the Youth Opportunity Center at Eastman Park will re-establish the former Dutchess YMCA site as a safe, structured space that will benefit our area youth and provide much-needed educational and healthcare services, childcare, and recreation opportunities.

Dutchess County has pledged up to \$25 million to build the center. Following City Council approval of said transfer to the County, the Dutchess County Legislature would then vote to authorize acceptance of the property

The City already has conducted a preliminary environmental and structural review of the property, concluding that the former YMCA building must be demolished -- a conclusion supported by the city's Building Inspector who has determined that the structure is unsafe.

The City and the County will be joined in this project by a number of excellent partners, as we raze the existing building and create a new, state-of-the-art youth center in its place. The 35 Montgomery Community Coalition has remained engaged since being identified as the winning proposal during the City's "Request for Expressions of Interest" process in 2019.

The YMCA of Kingston and Ulster County is working with the Coalition, along with other local organizations and community members, to re-establish the Dutchess YMCA as an educational and recreational resource for all Dutchess County residents. The YMCA facilities would include an indoor pool, recreational facilities, gymnasium, health and therapy services, and sensory playground.

DAY ONE — a local community-led effort co-founded by Geraldine Laybourne, former president of Nickelodeon — plans to operate the first-of-its kind 24-Hour Child Development Center. The Center also would house DAY ONE's apprentice teacher training program that will train 200 early childhood teachers over the five years, providing hands-on and intensive coursework to individuals new to the early childhood education field and those working in local daycares.

Dutchess County's Path to Promise team also will base itself at the Youth Opportunity Center, which will become the hub of the County's youth programming and initiatives.

The city has kept the public up to date on the progress so far at www.cityofpoughkeepsie.com/35montgomerystreet.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this project with you and the public at large at the March 3 meeting of the Common Council.

Sincerely,

Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Molinaro". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "M" and a long, horizontal tail.

City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Rob Rolison

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Rolison". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.