

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: MAYOR'S OFFICE HOSTS MEETING WITH WEST END BUSINESS OWNERS TO DISCUSS FUTURE REVITALIZATION

As directed by Mayor Joseph Maturo, Jr., a meeting was held recently of West Main Street business and property owners to discuss future revitalization of the west end business district. The West End area is delineated as Main Street from Forbes Place to the New Haven line. According to Mayor Maturo, "this endeavor would continue the very successful revitalization of the Central Business District which our administration accomplished during our previous ten year tenure starting in 1997."

The meeting, which was attended by over 25 business and property owners was held at Town Hall and coordinated by Arthur DeSorbo, Director of Administration & Management, who serves also as the Town's Economic Development Director. "I would like to thank David Brenan, owner and operator of East Haven Memorial Funeral Home, a west end business, who is attempting to organize a group of this area's merchants and property owners into an association. This type of association has been very successful in other surrounding towns/cities, such as New Haven, to coordinate specific geographical areas to enhance their visibility and ability to create increased marketing opportunities and strategy, which have led to greater success of each of businesses they represent", Maturo continued.

Frank Biancur the Town's Planning & Zoning Administrator presented a document entitled "East Haven Downtown (West End) Planning & Design Standards. The document is intended to provide continuity of the future improvements to the areas. Also in attendance were representatives of First Niagara Bank, who at the Mayor's request, have put together a program to assist these area businesses with available financing for property improvements at discounted rates and waiver of origination fees.

DeSorbo informed the group that the Town was preparing a request to the State for monies for a planning grant and a grant for further financial assistance for implementation of the improvements. He also asked the participants for their ideas and of course allowed time for attendees to ask numerous questions. "The meeting has already born fruit, as several owners have come forward with preliminary plans for improvements to their properties", DeSorbo stated. Future meetings are planned as the process moves forward. Any questions can be directed at Mr. DeSorbo in the Mayor's office @ 203-468-3204 or eh.desorbo@att.net

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Frank Gentilesco, Jr., Assistant Director of Administration & Management

Tel: (203) 468-3371

email: eh.gentilesco@att.net