



## Media Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Officials unveil Renaissance Commerce Park landmark grand entryway sign, commemorating new beginning for former Bethlehem Steel site**

*Lackawanna, NY*—Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz officially unveiled the new grand entryway sign at Renaissance Commerce Park (RCP) Friday, joined by U. S. Congressman Brian Higgins, Empire State Development WNY Regional Director Karen Utz, New York State Senator Tim Kennedy, City of Lackawanna Mayor Annette Iafallo, and ECIDA/ILDC President and CEO John Cappellino.

“Today we formally unveil this signature entrance sign and landmark, that clearly identifies Renaissance Commerce Park as a one-of-a-kind location for businesses,” **said Erie County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz**. “RCP is already on the map for businesses all over the globe looking for a prime North American footprint, but this new sign showcases the progress we are making while paying homage to the rich history of the former Bethlehem Steel site,” Poloncarz continued. “I want to thank the United Steelworkers for joining us to pay tribute to the men and women who worked here years ago, as well as IBEW Local 42, Laborers Local 210 and Operating Engineers Local 17 for fabricating and installing this impressive structure that will greet RCP workers and Erie County commuters for years to come.”

Poloncarz has made the redevelopment of the former steel plant site a top priority for his administration. The Erie County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA) was tasked with managing the property development through its land development arm, the Industrial Land Development Corporation (ILDC). Poloncarz serves on the ECIDA Board, and is the Chair of the ILDC Board of Directors.

Funding sources for Renaissance Commerce Park include federal, state and local grants, and more than \$90 million from the private businesses investing in development and job creation on the site.

**Congressman Brian Higgins said**, "The rise of Renaissance Commerce Park has been a team effort and the exciting news is that this is just the beginning. This place is truly symbolic of Western New York's spirit: hardworking people, the ability to come back united and stronger when we get knocked down, and endless opportunities. Renaissance Commerce Park will play a leading role in this region's bright future."

“With the new Renaissance Commerce Park grand entryway signage now in place, we have a marker to pay homage to the tremendous transformation at the former Bethlehem Steel site,” **said Empire State Development Western New York Regional Director Karen Utz**. “Governor Hochul and New York State are proud to have played an integral role in the remediation of the long-

vacant Bethlehem brownfield site in an effort to protect the environment, boost the economy and help rebuild the community."

"The City of Lackawanna is proud to join alongside our fellow partners and stakeholders in celebrating today's branding milestone for Renaissance Commerce Park - a name symbolic of the new economic life being created by this generational industrial land redevelopment project," **said Lackawanna Mayor Annette Iafallo**. "This new entryway signage will serve as a shining symbol of Renaissance Commerce Park's emergence as the region's premier commerce park and a catalyst for generating new economic revenues and job opportunities in Lackawanna and Erie County for decades to come."

Foam products processor and manufacturer TMP Technologies celebrated their ribbon cutting in May 2022 as the first occupant on RCP acreage. Uniland Development followed suit with 8 Dona Street, their first spec building next door to TMP, and that facility is now completed and fully leased, with tenants Quality Assurance International and Max Advanced Brakes. Uniland is currently constructing a second spec building on the parcel directly behind 8 Dona. The ILDC is now in the planning and purchase negotiation stages of Phase 2 acreage south of Dona Street Extension.

"Today's ceremony was a true watershed event for the ECIDA/ILDC," **said ECIDA/ILDC President and CEO John Cappellino**. "But we would not be here today without each member of what has become a large coalition of stakeholders, and without their dedication and contributions. I thank the County Executive for his leadership in this effort, the County Legislature, and Mayor Iafallo and the City Council for recognizing the significance of this site's revival to the Lackawanna community. Empire State Development and the Economic Development Administration have provided critical funding and support, and we are very lucky to have so many more committed stakeholders that we don't have time to mention them all by name," said Cappellino. "I thank everyone who has joined this effort to bring new life to this site."

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*The Erie County Industrial Development Agency is a public benefit corporation sanctioned by the State of New York to offer tax incentives to qualified businesses, and is dedicated to furthering economic development, adaptive reuse of qualified properties, job creation and ensuring a thriving business environment in Erie County.*

*The staff of the ECIDA are not employees of the City of Buffalo, the County of Erie, or the State of New York. The ECIDA does not receive operating funds from taxpayer revenues. The ECIDA receives its operating funds by collecting fees from the private businesses that enter into agreements with the Agency.*

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