

November 18, 2024

TO: Hon. Vedat Gashi, Chair
Hon. Jose Alvarado, Vice Chair
Hon. Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, Majority Leader
Hon. Margaret Cunzio, Minority Leader

FROM: ~~George Latimer~~ *Kenneth Jenkins* 
Acting Westchester County Executive

RE: Message Requesting Immediate Consideration: **Bond Acts – BPL30 & BPL1A, and 2 Acts re: 99 Church Street & 6 Cottage Place, White Plains.**

This will confirm my request that the Board of Legislators allow submission of the referenced communication to be submitted to the Board of Legislators November 18, 2024 Agenda.

Transmitted herewith for your review and approval is the legislation, as referenced above.

Therefore, since this communication is of the utmost importance, it is respectfully submitted that the County Board of Legislators accepts this submission for November 18, 2024 “blue sheet” calendar.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.



George Latimer
County Executive

November 18, 2024

Westchester County Board of Legislators
800 Michaelian Office Building
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Legislators:

As your Honorable Board is aware, to encourage the development of affordable housing that will affirmatively further fair housing (“AFFH”) in Westchester County (the “County”), the County has established New Homes Land Acquisition Fund II (“NHLA” or “Capital Project BPL30”) and Housing Implementation Fund II (“HIF” or “Capital Project BPL1A”) to provide funds to assist in the acquisition of property and construction of infrastructure improvements.

Transmitted herewith for your review and approval please find the following:

Land Purchase and Conveyance. An Act (the “Land Acquisition Act”) to authorize the purchase and subsequent conveyance of approximately +/- 0.93 acres (40,511 square feet) of real property located at 99 Church Street and 6 Cottage Place, (the “Property”) in the City of White Plains (the “City”) to WBP Development LLC, its successors, assigns or any entity created to carry out the purposes of the proposed transaction (the “Developer”), as part of the County’s program to support the construction of affordable housing units that will affirmatively further fair housing. The Land Acquisition Act also authorizes the County to grant and accept any property rights necessary in furtherance thereof.

Acquisition Financing. A New Homes Land Acquisition Bond Act (the “NHLA Bond Act”), prepared by the firm of Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the County in a total amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 as a part of Capital Project BPL30 New Homes Land Acquisition II. The Department of Planning (“Planning”) has advised that subject to the approval of your Honorable Board, the proposed NHLA Bond Act will authorize an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 to purchase the Property from the current owner to create one hundred-eight (108) affordable condominium ownership housing units that will affirmatively further fair housing (the “Affordable AFFH Units”) (the “Development”).

Inter-Municipal Developer Agreement Act. An Act (the “IMDA Act”) which will authorize the County to enter into an Inter-Municipal Developer Agreement (the “IMDA”) with the City of White Plains (the “City”) and the Developer, its successors or assigns, to finance the construction of the infrastructure improvements including, but not limited to, the construction of a new parking level and reconstruction of the existing below grade parking level at 99 Church Street. This will include new ramps and repairs to existing ramps, concrete flooring, drainage, lighting, signage,

Office of the County Executive
Michaelian Office Building
148 Martine Avenue
White Plains, New York 10601

Telephone: (914)995-2900

Website: westchestercountyny.gov



fire suppression, landscaping, construction management and County administrative costs (the "Infrastructure Improvements") in support of the Affordable AFFH Units as part of the County's program to ensure the development of new affordable housing. The term of the IMDA will be fifteen years (commensurate with the period of probable usefulness of the HIF bonds as described herein). The IMDA will provide that the City and/or the Developer, its successors or assigns, will be responsible for all costs of operation and maintenance of the Infrastructure Improvements. The IMDA will require the Developer, as a condition of the County's financing of the Infrastructure Improvements, to record a declaration of restrictive covenants approved by, and enforceable by, the County which will run with the land and bind the Property and any successor(s) in interest and will require that the Affordable AFFH Units be maintained and marketed in accordance thereto for a period of not less than fifty years.

Planning has advised that the authorization of your Honorable Board is required to accept all necessary property rights required to construct the Infrastructure Improvements. The County will have an ownership interest in the Infrastructure Improvements through an easement until the expiration of the term of the HIF bonds, as described herein. However, the County will not be responsible for any costs related to the operation and maintenance of the Infrastructure Improvements.

Construction Financing. A Bond Act (the "HIF Bond Act") prepared by the firm of Hawkins, Delafield and Wood, LLP, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the County in an amount not-to-exceed \$4,420,000 as a part of Capital Project BPL1A to finance the Infrastructure Improvements for the Development. Planning has advised that subject to the approval of your Honorable Board, the HIF Bond Act will authorize an amount not to exceed \$4,420,000 (the "County Funds") for the Infrastructure Improvements, which includes costs to cover the County's legal fees and staff costs.

Upon acquisition, the County will file a Declaration of Restrictive Covenants against the Property, to require that the proposed Affordable AFFH Units be marketed in accordance with an approved affordable fair housing marketing plan to eligible households with income at or below 100% of the Westchester County area median income ("AMI"), and sold at a sales price set at 80% of AMI. The Affordable AFFH Units will remain affordable for a period of not less than fifty (50) years noting that the income limits are subject to change based on the median income levels at the time of initial occupancy and subsequent occupancies, as established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Historically, County policy has been to assist affordable homeownership developments serving households earning up to 80% of AMI. However, with the release of a new subsidy program known as the Affordable Homeownership Opportunity Program ("AHOP") by the State of New York Homes and Community Renewal ("HCR"), HCR is now permitting their subsidy to assist homeowners with incomes of up to 100% of AMI. In order to match this program and to be able to utilize this funding source to develop affordable homeownership units in the County, the County policy will be modified only for AHOP developments to a maximum of 100% of AMI.

Planning has further advised that additional funds for the Development are anticipated to be provided from AHOP (committed), HCR Affordable Housing Corporation subsidy (committed), City of White Plains Affordable Housing Fund subsidy (committed), sale proceeds and deferred


developer fee (committed), for an estimated total Development cost of approximately \$78.37 Million.

Planning has further advised that Section 167.131 of the County Charter mandates that a Capital Budget Amendment that introduces a new capital project or changes the location, size or character of an existing capital project be accompanied by a report of the Westchester County Planning Board ("Planning Board") with respect to the physical planning aspects of the project. On July 2, 2024 and November 6, 2024, the Planning Board adopted Resolution No. 24-26 and 24-40 that recommends funding for the purchase and conveyance of the Property which is annexed hereto. In addition, the report of the Commissioner of Planning is annexed pursuant to Section 191.41 of the Westchester County Charter.

On July 2, 2024, the Planning Board adopted Resolution No. 24-27 to recommend funding to finance the Infrastructure Improvements on the Property. The Planning Board Resolution has been annexed hereto.

Based on the importance of creating more affordable housing units that affirmatively further fair housing in the County, your favorable action on the annexed Acts is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,


~~George Latimer~~ **Kenneth Jenkins**
~~County Executive~~ **Acting County Executive**

GL/BPL/DV/JPI
Attachments

**HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER**

Your Committee is in receipt of a communication from the County Executive recommending the enactment of the following:

Land Purchase and Conveyance. An Act (the “Land Acquisition Act”) to authorize the purchase and subsequent conveyance of approximately +/- 0.93 acres of real property located at 99 Church Street and 6 Cottage Place (the “Property”) in the City of White Plains (the “City”) to WBP Development LLC, its successors, assigns or any entity created to carry out the purposes of the proposed transaction (the “Developer”), as part of the County’s program to support the creation of affordable housing units that affirmatively further fair housing). The Land Acquisition Act also authorizes the County to grant and accept any property rights necessary in furtherance thereof.

Acquisition Financing. A New Homes Land Acquisition Bond Act (the “NHLA Bond Act”), prepared by the firm of Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the County in a total amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 as a part of Capital Project BPL30 New Homes Land Acquisition II. The Department of Planning (“Planning”) has advised that subject to the receipt of approval of your Honorable Board, the proposed NHLA Bond Act will authorize an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 to purchase the Property from the current owner to create one hundred-eight (108) affordable condominium ownership housing units that will affirmatively further fair housing (the “Affordable AFFH Units”).

Upon acquisition, the County will file a Declaration of Restrictive Covenants against the Property, to require that the proposed Affordable AFFH Units be marketed in accordance with an approved affordable fair housing marketing plan to eligible households with income at or below 100% of the Westchester County area median income (“AMI”) and sold at a sales price set at 80% of AMI. The Affordable AFFH Units will remain affordable for a period of not less than fifty (50) years noting that the income limits are subject to change based on the median income levels at the time of initial occupancy and subsequent occupancies, as established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Your Committee has been advised that, historically, County policy has been to assist affordable homeownership developments serving households earning up to 80% of AMI. However, with the release of a new subsidy program known as the Affordable Homeownership Opportunity Program (“AHOP”) by the State of New York Homes and Community Renewal (“HCR”), HCR is now permitting their subsidy to assist homeowners with incomes of up to 100% of AMI. In order to match this program and to be able to utilize this funding source to develop affordable homeownership units in the County, the County policy will be modified only for AHOP developments to a maximum of 100% of AMI.

In accordance with the Land Acquisition Act, the County will subsequently convey the Property to the Developer for One (\$1.00) Dollar for adaptive reuse and construction of the Affordable AFFH Units.

Inter-Municipal Developer Agreement Act. An Act (the “IMDA Act”) which will authorize the County to enter into an Inter-Municipal Developer Agreement (the “IMDA”) with the City of White Plains (the “City”) and the Developer, its successors or assigns, to finance the construction of the infrastructure improvements including, but not limited to, on-site and off-site paving, curbing, sidewalks, storm water detention, drainage systems, sanitary sewer system, water lines, lighting, signage, landscaping, construction management and County administrative costs (the “Infrastructure Improvements”) in support of the Affordable AFFH Units as part of the County’s program to ensure the development of new affordable housing. The term of the IMDA will be fifteen years (commensurate with the period of probable usefulness of the HIF bonds as described herein). The IMDA will provide that the City and/or the Developer, its successors, or assigns, will be responsible for all costs of operation and maintenance of the Infrastructure Improvements. The IMDA will require the Developer, as a condition of the County’s financing of the Infrastructure Improvements, to record a declaration of restrictive covenants approved by, and enforceable by, the County which will run with the land and bind the Property and any successor(s) in interest and will require that the Affordable AFFH Units be maintained and marketed in accordance thereto for a period of not less than fifty.

Construction Financing. A Bond Act (the “HIF Bond Act”) prepared by the firm of Hawkins, Delafield and Wood, LLP, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the County in an amount not-to-exceed \$4,420,000 as a part of Capital Project BPL1A to finance the Infrastructure Improvements for the Development. Planning has advised that subject to the approval of your Honorable Board, the HIF Bond Act will authorize an amount not to exceed \$4,420,000 (the “County Funds”) for the Infrastructure Improvements which includes costs to cover the County’s legal fees and staff costs.

Planning has advised your Committee that your Honorable Board’s authorization is required to accept all necessary property rights required to construct the Infrastructure Improvements. The County will have an ownership interest in the Infrastructure Improvements through easements until the expiration of the term of the HIF bonds, as described herein. However, the County will not be responsible for any costs related to the operation and maintenance of the Infrastructure Improvements.

Your Committee has been advised that additional funds for the Development are anticipated to be provided from the Affordable Homeownership Opportunity Program (“AHOP”) from HCR (committed), New York State Affordable Housing Corporation from HCR (committed), City of White Plains Affordable Housing Fund (“WPAHF”) subsidy (committed), sale proceeds and deferred developer fee (committed), for an estimated total Development cost of approximately \$78.37 Million.

Your Committee has been advised by Planning that the proposed Development was classified as an Unlisted Action by the City of White Plains Common Council, pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617, which requires an assessment of environmental impacts. Your Committee has further been advised by Planning that the City Common Council issued a determination that this project would not have a significant impact on the environment, but since the County was not included as an involved agency in the City’s review, the County must conduct its own environmental review. As such, a Short Environmental Assessment form (“EAF”) was prepared by Planning and is attached hereto for your Honorable Board’s consideration. Your Committee has carefully

considered the proposed legislation. It has reviewed the attached EAF and the criteria contained in Section 617.7 of the SEQRA regulations to identify the relevant areas of environmental concern. For the reasons set forth in the attached EAF, your Committee believes that the proposed action will not have any significant adverse impact on the environment and urges your Honorable Board to adopt the annexed Resolution by which this Board would issue a Negative Declaration for this Development.

Your Committee has been further advised that Section 167.131 of the County Charter mandates that a Capital Budget Amendment that introduces a new capital project or changes the location, size or character of an existing capital project be accompanied by a report of the Westchester County Planning Board (“Planning Board”) with respect to the physical planning aspects of the project. On July 2, 2024 and November 6, 2024, the Planning Board adopted Resolution No. 24-26 and 24-40 that recommends funding for the purchase and conveyance of the Property which is annexed hereto. In addition, the report of the Commissioner of Planning is annexed pursuant to Section 191.41 of the Westchester County Charter.

Your Committee has been advised that on June 4, 2024, the Planning Board adopted Resolution No. 24-27 to recommend funding to finance the Infrastructure Improvements on the Property. The Planning Board Resolution has been annexed hereto.

Based on the foregoing, your Committee believes that the Acts are in the best interest of the County and therefore recommends their adoption, noting that the IMDA Act requires no more than an affirmative vote of the majority of the Board, while the Land Acquisition Act, NHLA Bond Act and HIF Bond Act require the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of your Honorable Board.

Dated: _____, 2024

White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON

c/dlv/jpi 11-18-24



Memorandum

**Department of Planning
432 Michaelian Office Building
148 Martine Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601**

TO: Honorable George Latimer
County Executive

FROM: Blanca P. Lopez
Commissioner

DATE: November 18, 2024

SUBJECT: Acquisition of Real Property – 99 Church Street and 6 Cottage Place
- City of White Plains

Pursuant to Section 191.41 of the County Charter, submitted herewith is the required report of the Commissioner of Planning on the proposed acquisition and subsequent conveyance of +/- 0.99 acres of real property located at 99 Church Street and 6 Cottage Place in the City of White Plains, identified on the City tax maps as Section: 125.67 Block 4: Lot: 4.1 (the “Property”) for the purpose of creating 108 affordable housing units (the “Affordable AFFH Units”), that will affirmatively further fair housing (“AFFH”).

The County of Westchester (“the County”) intends to finance the purchase of the Property from the current owner in an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 as a part of Capital Project BPL30 New Homes Land Acquisition II. Upon acquisition of the Property, the County will file a Declaration of Restrictive Covenants to require that the Affordable AFFH Units are marketed and sold in accordance with an approved affirmative fair housing marketing plan and will remain available to eligible households for a period of not less than 50 years. The County will then convey ownership of the Property to WBP Development LLC (the “Developer”), its successors or assigns, for One (\$1.00) Dollar.

The Developer proposes to adaptively reuse / construct the 108 units in an existing five story and six story building on the Property that will include a mix of affordable studio, one, two and three-bedroom condominium ownership housing units that will be sold to households who earn at or below 100% with the sales price set at 80% of the area median income (“AMI”) (collectively the “Development”).

Historically, County policy has been to assist affordable homeownership developments serving households earning up to 80% of the AMI. However, with the release of a new subsidy program known as the Affordable Homeownership Opportunity Program (“AHOP”) by the State of New York Homes and Community Renewal (“HCR”), HCR is now permitting their subsidy to assist homeowners with incomes of up to 100% of the AMI. In order to match this program and to be able to utilize this funding source to develop affordable homeownership units in the County, the County policy will be modified only for AHOP developments to a maximum of

100% of AMI.

I recommend funding for acquisition and conveyance of the Property for the following reasons:

1. The acquisition of this Property will advance the County's efforts to provide fair and affordable housing;
2. The acquisition and subsequent conveyance of the Property to develop fair and affordable housing is consistent with development policies adopted by the County Planning Board as set forth in *Westchester 2025 - Context for County and Municipal Planning in Westchester County and Policies to Guide County Planning*, adopted May 6, 2008, and amended January 5, 2010, and the recommended strategies set forth in *Patterns for Westchester: The Land and the People*, adopted December 5, 1995;
3. The Development is proposed to include green technology, such as energy efficient appliances, lighting and heating systems and water-conserving fixtures to reduce operating and maintenance costs, minimize energy consumption and conserve natural resources. The Development will provide all electric, high-performance heating/cooling/domestic hot water equipment. It will also follow HCR Sustainability Guidelines for New Construction and will seek Energy Star Multi-Family Certification.;
4. The Development is consistent with the land use policies and regulations of the City of White Plains; and
5. On July 2, 2024 and November 6, 2024, the County Planning Board adopted a resolution to recommend County financing towards the purchase the Property to support the Development.

BPL/lg

cc: Kenneth Jenkins, Deputy County Executive
Joan McDonald, Director of Operations
John M. Nonna, County Attorney
Westchester County Planning Board

RESOLUTION 24- 26

WESTCHESTER COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

**New Homes Land Acquisition II
Capital Project Funding Request
99 Church Street,
City of White Plains**

WHEREAS, the County of Westchester (the "County") has established Capital Project BPL30 New Homes Land Acquisition II ("NHLA") to assist in the acquisition of property associated with the development and preservation of fair and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, WBP Development LLC (the "Developer"), its successors or assigns, desires to develop the real property located at 99 Church Street in the City of White Plains (the "City"), identified on the tax maps as Section 125.67 Block 4: Lot: 4.1 (the "Property") to create 68 affordable residential ownership units that will affirmatively further fair housing ("AFFH"; collectively the "Affordable AFFH Units") and 101 parking spaces (collectively the "Development"). and

WHEREAS, the County proposes to purchase the Property from the owner of record, for a not to exceed amount of \$3,400,000 with funds from NHLA and subsequently convey the Property to the Developer for One (\$1.00) Dollar to underwrite the cost of the land; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, the Board of Legislators ("BOL") approved the creation of the NHLA Program to support the development of affordable housing in the County. The NHLA program was set up with income requirements based on the adopted *Westchester County Affordable Housing Plan Statement of Need* ("Statement of Need") dated June 4, 1992, which identified housing needs in the County, and stated that "middle income households will require further support...hence the need for the County to target this population group as well." Middle income was defined in the Statement of Need as households earning between 80% and 120% of the AMI. However, the NHLA Program has historically served households earning up to 80% of AMI for homeownership developments. Therefore, in accordance with State of New York funding programs and to promote affordable homeownership development, the County will permit NHLA funding for households with income of up to 100% of the AMI. These Developments must receive a funding award from the State of New York Homes and Community Renewal program known as Affordable Homeownership Opportunity Program ("AHOP"). Furthermore, the future homeowners must be first time homeowners; and

WHEREAS, upon acquisition, the County will file a Declaration of Restrictive Covenants to require that the Affordable AFFH Units constructed on the Property be purchased at a sales price set at 80% of the Westchester County Area Median Income ("AMI") by households who earn at or below 100% of the AMI; and

WHEREAS, the County will transfer ownership of the Property to the Developer to construct a mix of one, two and three-bedroom apartments to be purchased by eligible first time

home buyer households, pursuant to an approved Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan, for a minimum of 50 years; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of the above, the County Executive will be submitting legislation to the Board of Legislators to amend Capital Project BPL30 NHLA II to add the Property, 99 Church Street; City of White Plains, and authorize bonding in a not to exceed amount of \$3,400,000 to develop the Property; and

WHEREAS, the Development is subject to approvals by the City of White Plains; and


WHEREAS, the funding to support the development of the Affordable AFFH Units is consistent with and reinforces *Westchester 2025 – Policies to Guide County Planning*, the County Planning Board’s adopted long-range land use and development policies, by contributing to the development of “a range of housing types” “affordable to all income levels”; and

WHEREAS, the staff of the County Department of Planning have reviewed the proposal and recommend the requested funding associated with acquisition of the Property; and

RESOLVED, that the Westchester County Planning Board after completing a review of the physical planning aspects of the Affordable AFFH Units, including an appraisal, recommends that the County provide financial assistance in a not-to-exceed amount of \$3,400,000 from BPL30 NHLA II for property acquisition; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Westchester County Planning Board amends its report on the 2024 Capital Project requests to include 99 Church Street in the City of White Plains, as a new component project in Capital Project BPL30 under the heading of Buildings, Land and Miscellaneous.

Adopted this 2nd day of July 2024.


Richard Hyman, Chair

RESOLUTION 24- 27

WESTCHESTER COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

**Housing Implementation Fund II
Capital Project Funding Request
99 Church Street, City of White Plains**

WHEREAS, the County has established Capital Project BPLIA Housing Implementation Fund II ("HIF") to assist municipalities with the cost of construction of public infrastructure improvements associated with the development of fair and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, WBP Development LLC (the "Developer"), its successors or assigns, desires to develop the real property located at 99 Church Street in the City of White Plains (the "City"), identified on the tax maps as Section 125.67 Block 4: Lot: 4.1 (the "Property") to create 68 affordable residential ownership units that will affirmatively further fair housing ("AFFH"; collectively the "Affordable AFFH Units") and 101 parking spaces (collectively the "Development"); and

WHEREAS, the Developer desires the County to fund infrastructure improvements to support the construction/adaptive reuse of one four story building into one five-story building, with 68 affordable residential homeownership units and 101 parking spaces (the "Development"); and

WHEREAS, to support the development of affordable homeownership housing in the County and since 1992, the Housing Implementation Fund ("HIF") program has been relying on income requirements based on the adopted *Westchester County Affordable Housing Plan Statement of Need* ("Statement of Need") dated June 4, 1992, which identified housing needs in the County, and stated that "middle income households will require further support...hence the need for the County to target this population group as well." Middle income was defined in the Statement of Need as households earning between 80% and 120% of the AMI. However, the HIF Program has historically served households earning up to 80% of AMI for homeownership developments. Therefore, in accordance with State of New York funding programs and to promote affordable homeownership development, the County will permit HIF funding for households with income of up to 100% of the AMI. These Developments must receive a funding award from the State of New York Homes and Community Renewal program known as Affordable Homeownership Opportunity Program ("AHOP"). Furthermore, the future homeowners must be first time homeowners; and

WHEREAS, upon acquisition, the County will file a Declaration of Restrictive Covenants to require that the Affordable AFFH Units constructed on the Property be purchased at a sales price set at 80% of the Westchester County Area Median Income ("AMI") by households who earn at or below 100% of the AMI; and

WHEREAS, a not to exceed amount of \$4,420,000 is requested from Capital Project BPLIA Housing Implementation Fund II to fund eligible expenses that include, but will not

be limited to, construction of a new parking level and reconstruction of the existing below grade parking level. This will include new ramps and repairs to existing ramps, concrete flooring, drainage, lighting, signage, fire suppression, landscaping, construction management and county administrative costs; and

WHEREAS, the Development proposes to include green technology such as energy efficient appliances, lighting and heating systems and water-conserving fixtures to maximize energy efficiency, reduce heating and cooling costs and conserve natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Development is subject to approvals by the City of White Plains; and

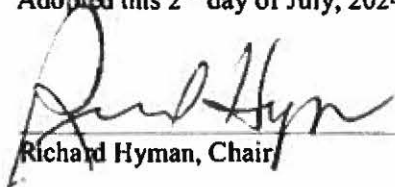
WHEREAS, the funding to support the development of the Affordable AFFH Units is consistent with and reinforces *Westchester 2025 – Policies to Guide County Planning*, the County Planning Board's adopted long-range land use and development policies, by contributing to the development of "a range of housing types" "affordable to all income levels;" and

WHEREAS, the staff of the County Department of Planning have reviewed the proposal and recommend the requested funding associated with the construction of the infrastructure improvements; and

RESOLVED, that the Westchester County Planning Board after completing a review of the physical planning aspects of the Development, supports the request to provide a not to exceed amount of \$4,420,000 for infrastructure improvements for the Development under the terms of the HIF Program, which will support the creation of 68 Affordable AFFH Homeownership Units which will be available to households who have an income of up to 100% of the AMI and 101 parking spaces, located at 99 Church Street in the City of White Plains; and

RESOLVED, that the Westchester County Planning Board amends its report on the 2024 Capital Project Requests to include 99 Church Street in the City of White Plains, as a new component project in Capital Project BPL1A under the heading of Buildings, Land and Miscellaneous.

Adopted this 2nd day of July, 2024.


Richard Hyman, Chair

RESOLUTION 24- 40

WESTCHESTER COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

**Capital Budget Amendment to the 2024 Capital Project Requests
BPL30 - New Homes Land Acquisition II
6 Cottage Place,
City of White Plains**

WHEREAS, the County of Westchester (the "County") has established Capital Project BPL30 New Homes Land Acquisition II ("NHLA") to assist in the acquisition of property associated with the development and preservation of fair and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, WBP Development LLC (the "Developer"), its successors or assigns, desires to develop the real property located at 6 Cottage Place in the City of White Plains (the "City"), identified on the tax maps as Section 125.67 Block 4: Lot: 4.1 (the "Property") to create 40 affordable residential ownership units that will affirmatively further fair housing ("AFFH"; collectively the "Affordable AFFH Units") (collectively the "Development"); and

WHEREAS, the County proposes to purchase the Property from the owner of record, for a not to exceed amount of \$6,600,000 with funds from NHLA and subsequently convey the Property to the Developer for One (\$1.00) Dollar to underwrite the cost of the land; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, the Board of Legislators ("BOL") approved the creation of the NHLA Program to support the development of affordable housing in the County. The NHLA program was set up with income requirements based on the adopted *Westchester County Affordable Housing Plan Statement of Need* ("Statement of Need") dated June 4, 1992, which identified housing needs in the County, and stated that "middle income households will require further support...hence the need for the County to target this population group as well." Middle income was defined in the Statement of Need as households earning between 80% and 120% of the AMI. However, the NHLA Program has historically served households earning up to 80% of AMI for homeownership developments. Therefore, in accordance with State of New York funding programs and to promote affordable homeownership development, the County will permit NHLA funding for households with income of up to 100% of the AMI. These Developments must receive a funding award from the State of New York Homes and Community Renewal program known as Affordable Homeownership Opportunity Program ("AHOP"). Furthermore, the future homeowners must be first time homeowners; and

WHEREAS, upon acquisition, the County will file a Declaration of Restrictive Covenants to require that the Affordable AFFH Units constructed on the Property be purchased at a sales price set at 80% of the Westchester County Area Median Income ("AMI") by households who earn at or below 100% of the AMI; and

WHEREAS, the County will transfer ownership of the Property to the Developer to construct a mix of studio, one and three-bedroom affordable homeownership apartments to be purchased by eligible first time home buyer households, pursuant to an approved Affirmative

Fair Housing Marketing Plan, for a minimum of 50 years; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of the above, the County Executive will be submitting legislation to the Board of Legislators to amend Capital Project BPL30 NHLA II to add the Property, 6 Cottage Place; City of White Plains, and authorize bonding in a not to exceed amount of \$6,600,000 to develop the Property; and

WHEREAS, the Development is subject to approvals by the City of White Plains; and


WHEREAS, the funding to support the development of the Affordable AFFH Units is consistent with and reinforces *Westchester 2025 – Policies to Guide County Planning*, the County Planning Board’s adopted long-range land use and development policies, by contributing to the development of “a range of housing types” “affordable to all income levels”; and

WHEREAS, the staff of the County Department of Planning have reviewed the proposal and recommend the requested funding associated with acquisition of the Property; and


RESOLVED, that the Westchester County Planning Board after completing a review of the physical planning aspects of the Affordable AFFH Units, including an appraisal, recommends that the County provide financial assistance in a not-to-exceed amount of \$6,600,000 from BPL30 NHLA II for property acquisition; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Westchester County Planning Board amends its report on the 2024 Capital Project requests to include 6 Cottage Place in the City of White Plains, as a new component project in Capital Project BPL30 under the heading of Buildings, Land and Miscellaneous.

Adopted this 6th day of November 2024.


Richard Hyman, Chair

TO: Leonard Gruenfeld, Program Director
Division of Housing and Community Development

FROM: David S. Kvinge, AICP, RLA, CFM 
Assistant Commissioner

DATE: November 13, 2024

SUBJECT: **STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW FOR
BPL1A HOUSING IMPLEMENTATION FUND
BPL30 NEW HOMES LAND ACQUISITION II
99 CHURCH STREET & 6 COTTAGE PLACE, WHITE PLAINS**

Pursuant to your request, Environmental Planning staff has reviewed the above referenced project in connection with the State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617 (SEQR).

The action involves the provision of County funding under capital projects BPL1A – Housing Implementation Fund II and BPL30 – New Homes Land Acquisition II to facilitate the adaptive reuse of commercial property, that was last used by a college for educational and dormitory purposes, into 108 units of affordable housing. The property consists of two buildings on a 0.93-acre parcel, located at 99 Church Street and 6 Cottage Place in the City of White Plains.

Funds from BPL1A will be used to cover a portion of the costs of infrastructure improvements, including parking-related improvements to provide a total of 89 parking spaces. BPL30 funds will be applied towards the purchase of the property, upon which the County will file a restrictive covenant that will require all of the proposed condominium units to be marketed and leased to households meeting certain income thresholds that will affirmatively further fair housing for a period of not less than 50 years prior to conveying to the developer.

The proposed redevelopment, which includes building modifications, was reviewed by the City of White Plains Common Council, which classified the project as an Unlisted action under SEQR and on October 7, 2024, issued a determination that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment.

However, since the County of Westchester was not included as an involved agency in the City's review, the County must conduct its own environmental review prior to approving County funding towards this project. Consequently, a Short Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) is attached for consideration by the Board of Legislators.

Please contact me if you require any additional information regarding this document.

DSK/cnm

Att.

cc: Blanca Lopez, Commissioner, Department of Planning
David Vutera, Associate County Attorney
John Paul Iannace, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Susan Darling, Chief Planner
Michael Lipkin, Associate Planner
Claudia Maxwell, Principal Environmental Planner

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there is pending before this Honorable Board an Act to authorize the County of Westchester to acquire and convey real property at 99 Church Street and 6 Cottage Place in the City of White Plains, along with the provision of funds to assist with related infrastructure improvements, for the purpose of adaptive reuse of existing development to create 108 affordable condominium ownership housing units , that will affirmatively further fair housing and remain affordable for a period of not less than 50 years (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Board has determined that the Project would constitute an action under Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law, known as the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to SEQRA and its implementing regulations (6 NYCRR Part 617), this project is classified as an “Unlisted action,” which requires this Honorable Board to make a determination as to whether the proposed action will have a significant impact on the environment; and

WHEREAS, the City of White Plains Common Council conducted an environmental review and made a determination that the proposed action would not have a significant effect on the environment, but did not include the County in a coordinated review; and

WHEREAS, the County of Westchester is conducting an uncoordinated review as permitted for Unlisted actions pursuant to Section 617.6(b)(4) of the implementing regulations; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with SEQRA and its implementing regulations, a Short Environmental Assessment Form has been prepared to assist this Honorable Board in its environmental assessment of this proposed action; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Board has carefully considered the proposed action and has reviewed the attached Short Environmental Assessment Form and the criteria set forth in Section 617.7 of the implementing regulations and has identified the relevant areas of environmental concern, as described in the attached Short Environmental Assessment Form, to determine if this proposed action will have a significant impact on the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the County Board of Legislators of the County of Westchester, State of New York, as follows:

RESOLVED, that based upon the Honorable Board's review of the Short Environmental Assessment Form and for the reasons set forth therein, this Board finds that there will be no significant adverse impact on the environment from the real property acquisition and conveyance of 99 Church Street and 6 Cottage Place in the City of White Plains and funding of related infrastructure improvements in support of the adaptive reuse and construction of 108 affordable condominium homeownership units that will affirmatively further fair housing; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Legislators is authorized and directed to sign the "Determination of Significance" in the Short Environmental Assessment Form, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, as the "Responsible Officer in Lead Agency"; to issue this "Negative Declaration" on behalf of this Board in satisfaction of SEQRA and its implementing regulations; and to immediately transmit same to the Commissioner of

Planning to be filed, published and made available pursuant to the requirements of Part 617 of 6
NYCRR; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Short Environmental Assessment Form

Part 1 - Project Information

Instructions for Completing

Part 1 – Project Information. The applicant or project sponsor is responsible for the completion of Part 1. Responses become part of the application for approval or funding, are subject to public review, and may be subject to further verification. Complete Part 1 based on information currently available. If additional research or investigation would be needed to fully respond to any item, please answer as thoroughly as possible based on current information.

Complete all items in Part 1. You may also provide any additional information which you believe will be needed by or useful to the lead agency; attach additional pages as necessary to supplement any item.

Part 1 – Project and Sponsor Information				
Name of Action or Project: 99 Church Street & 6 Cottage Place				
Project Location (describe, and attach a location map): 97-109 Church Street, White Plains				
Brief Description of Proposed Action: The Applicant is proposing to renovate the existing buildings at 99 Church Street and 6 Cottage Place and adaptively reuse them as multi-family dwelling units. The Applicant proposes a total of 108 dwelling units, including 68 dwelling units at 99 Church Street and 40 dwelling units at 6 Cottage Place, together with 89 parking spaces in the two (2) buildings. The Applicant is also proposing to add one (1) story onto the building at 99 Church Street. The project required an area variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals pursuant to Section 5.5.3.1 to permit a reduction in the front yard setback from 15 feet (required) to 0 feet (existing and proposed), which was granted in February, 2024. The project also required site plan approval and a special permit from the Common Council which were granted in June, 2024. Since the approvals were granted, the Applicant has reduced the proposed number of dwelling units at 6 Cottage Place to 40 units and increased the proposed number of parking spaces at the property. These modifications require amended site plan approval from the Common Council.				
Name of Applicant or Sponsor: WBP Development LLC		Telephone: 914-263-0079 E-Mail: jwendling@wbpdev.com		
Address: c/o Wilder Balter Partners, Inc., 480 Bedford Road				
City/PO: Chappaqua	State: NY	Zip Code: 10514		
1. Does the proposed action only involve the legislative adoption of a plan, local law, ordinance, administrative rule, or regulation? If Yes, attach a narrative description of the intent of the proposed action and the environmental resources that may be affected in the municipality and proceed to Part 2. If no, continue to question 2.			NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Does the proposed action require a permit, approval or funding from any other government Agency? If Yes, list agency(s) name and permit or approval: Common Council; Building Department; WC BOL			NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. a. Total acreage of the site of the proposed action?		0.93 acres		
b. Total acreage to be physically disturbed?		0 acres		
c. Total acreage (project site and any contiguous properties) owned or controlled by the applicant or project sponsor?		0.93 acres		
4. Check all land uses that occur on, are adjoining or near the proposed action:				
5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural (non-agriculture) <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Residential (suburban) <input type="checkbox"/> Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic <input type="checkbox"/> Other(Specify): <input type="checkbox"/> Parkland				

5. Is the proposed action,	NO	YES	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a. A permitted use under the zoning regulations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Consistent with the adopted comprehensive plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Is the proposed action consistent with the predominant character of the existing built or natural landscape?	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7. Is the site of the proposed action located in, or does it adjoin, a state listed Critical Environmental Area? If Yes, identify: _____	NO	YES	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8. a. Will the proposed action result in a substantial increase in traffic above present levels? b. Are public transportation services available at or near the site of the proposed action? c. Are any pedestrian accommodations or bicycle routes available on or near the site of the proposed action?	NO	YES	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
9. Does the proposed action meet or exceed the state energy code requirements? If the proposed action will exceed requirements, describe design features and technologies: _____ _____	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
10. Will the proposed action connect to an existing public/private water supply? If No, describe method for providing potable water: _____ _____	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
11. Will the proposed action connect to existing wastewater utilities? If No, describe method for providing wastewater treatment: _____ _____	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
12. a. Does the project site contain, or is it substantially contiguous to, a building, archaeological site, or district which is listed on the National or State Register of Historic Places, or that has been determined by the Commissioner of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to be eligible for listing on the State Register of Historic Places? Consultation with SHPO closed and both buildings at the property were determined to be not eligible for listing. b. Is the project site, or any portion of it, located in or adjacent to an area designated as sensitive for archaeological sites on the NY State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) archaeological site inventory?	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
13. a. Does any portion of the site of the proposed action, or lands adjoining the proposed action, contain wetlands or other waterbodies regulated by a federal, state or local agency? b. Would the proposed action physically alter, or encroach into, any existing wetland or waterbody? If Yes, identify the wetland or waterbody and extent of alterations in square feet or acres: _____ _____ _____	NO	YES	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

14. Identify the typical habitat types that occur on, or are likely to be found on the project site. Check all that apply:

Shoreline Forest Agricultural/grasslands Early mid-successional
 Wetland Urban Suburban

15. Does the site of the proposed action contain any species of animal, or associated habitats, listed by the State or Federal government as threatened or endangered?

Peregrine Falcon

	NO	YES
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

16. Is the project site located in the 100-year flood plan?

	NO	YES
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

17. Will the proposed action create storm water discharge, either from point or non-point sources?
If Yes,

a. Will storm water discharges flow to adjacent properties?

b. Will storm water discharges be directed to established conveyance systems (runoff and storm drains)?
If Yes, briefly describe:

No new impervious surfaces proposed as part of the project. Buildings discharge into existing conveyance systems.

	NO	YES
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

18. Does the proposed action include construction or other activities that would result in the impoundment of water or other liquids (e.g., retention pond, waste lagoon, dam)?
If Yes, explain the purpose and size of the impoundment:

	NO	YES
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

19. Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the location of an active or closed solid waste management facility?
If Yes, describe:

	NO	YES
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

20. Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the subject of remediation (ongoing or completed) for hazardous waste?
If Yes, describe:

White Plains Mall/Hamilton Green Project was in the Brownfield Cleanup Program and located across Cottage Place from property.

	NO	YES
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOVE IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

Applicant/sponsor/name: WBP Development LLC by its attorneys DDWWW Date: 11/12/24

Signature: *Michael Gatter* Title: President

Project: **WHP 99 Church & 6 Cottage**

Date: **November 2024**

**Short Environmental Assessment Form
Part 2 - Impact Assessment**

Part 2 is to be completed by the Lead Agency.

Answer all of the following questions in Part 2 using the information contained in Part 1 and other materials submitted by the project sponsor or otherwise available to the reviewer. When answering the questions the reviewer should be guided by the concept "Have my responses been reasonable considering the scale and context of the proposed action?"

	No, or small impact may occur	Moderate to large impact may occur
1. Will the proposed action create a material conflict with an adopted land use plan or zoning regulations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Will the proposed action result in a change in the use or intensity of use of land?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of the existing community?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Will the proposed action have an impact on the environmental characteristics that caused the establishment of a Critical Environmental Area (CEA)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of traffic or affect existing infrastructure for mass transit, biking or walkway?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Will the proposed action cause an increase in the use of energy and it fails to incorporate reasonably available energy conservation or renewable energy opportunities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Will the proposed action impact existing:		
a. public / private water supplies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. public / private wastewater treatment utilities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of important historic, archaeological, architectural or aesthetic resources?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change to natural resources (e.g., wetlands, waterbodies, groundwater, air quality, flora and fauna)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Will the proposed action result in an increase in the potential for erosion, flooding or drainage problems?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Will the proposed action create a hazard to environmental resources or human health?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Short Environmental Assessment Form
Part 3 Determination of Significance**

For every question in Part 2 that was answered “moderate to large impact may occur”, or if there is a need to explain why a particular element of the proposed action may or will not result in a significant adverse environmental impact, please complete Part 3. Part 3 should, in sufficient detail, identify the impact, including any measures or design elements that have been included by the project sponsor to avoid or reduce impacts. Part 3 should also explain how the lead agency determined that the impact may or will not be significant. Each potential impact should be assessed considering its setting, probability of occurring, duration, irreversibility, geographic scope and magnitude. Also consider the potential for short-term, long-term and cumulative impacts.

There will be no significant environmental impacts as the project involves adaptive reuse of property that is already fully developed with a 4-story building, a 6-story building and paved parking areas within an urban setting,

The increase in square footage by adding one story to the existing 4-story building will not change the footprint nor significantly alter the visual environment, which consists of buildings that are taller.

The change in use from institutional (educational) to residential will also not have an impact on the neighborhood as the area contains mixed uses, including commercial and multifamily residential buildings.

Adaptive reuse of property provides the environmental benefit of capitalizing on existing infrastructure and avoiding development of undeveloped land.

- Check this box if you have determined, based on the information and analysis above, and any supporting documentation, that the proposed action may result in one or more potentially large or significant adverse impacts and an environmental impact statement is required.
- Check this box if you have determined, based on the information and analysis above, and any supporting documentation, that the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.

County of Westchester

Name of Lead Agency

Malika Vanderberg

Print or Type Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

Date

Clerk to the Board of Legislators

Title of Responsible Officer

Dark Knight

Signature of Preparer (if different from Responsible Officer)