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Lackawanna Terminates Sale Contract with Douglas Development for \$35M Project at 539 Ridge Road

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lackawanna, New York (March 18, 2025) – Today, the City of Lackawanna announced it has officially terminated a land sale contract with Douglas Development pertaining to a planned \$35 million mixed-use development project at 539 Ridge Road in the city’s Second Ward.

The project, first announced in September, 2022 and formalized contractually in March, 2023, would have created 160 market rate apartments averaging 850 sq. feet and 10,000 sq. feet of ground floor retail space at the 1.25 acre site.

“After engaging Douglas Development for nearly two and a half years on the specifics of a multi-million dollar project at 539 Ridge Road, we ultimately, and unfortunately, could not agree on a mutually beneficial timeframe for moving the project forward. Therefore, the City of Lackawanna has elected to move in a new direction,” said Charles Clark, Director of Development, Marketing and Public Information. “It was a pleasure getting to know the Douglas Development teams and their tremendous capabilities. We wish them all the best with their other local endeavors.”

The 1.25-acre 539 Ridge Road parcel in Lackawanna’s Second Ward was the location of the former St. Barbara’s R.C. Church, which stood from 1930 until it was closed / consolidated by the Diocese of Buffalo in 2008 and subsequently demolished in 2011. The diocese then sold the land to the City of Lackawanna in November of 2014 and it has sat vacant ever since.

A new Request for Proposal (RFP) for the 539 Ridge Road site will be pursued later this year as part of a larger in-fill housing plan the city is crafting.