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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lackawanna Adopts Historic Property Overlay Zoning District for Our Lady of Victory Basilica and Related Campus Properties

Action strengthens 2024 placement of OLV's campus on The National Register of Historic Places

Lackawanna, N.Y. (June 18, 2025) – The City of Lackawanna announces an amendment to its Zoning Code involving adoption of a new Historic Property Overlay Zoning District designed to protect and preserve the Our Lady of Victory campus spanning Ridge Road and South Park Avenue in the city's Central Business District.

The new overlay zoning district will work in tandem with the City of Lackawanna's existing (and future) Central Business District zoning requirements for the area encompassing OLV National Shrine & Basilica and its related facilities by providing additional protections to buildings, properties and features deemed architecturally and / or culturally significant to the city. Any future development within the overlay zoning district would need to conform to the style of existing buildings and features on the OLV campus and other buildings and features within the district.

"Our Lady of Victory National Shrine & Basilica is recognized around the world as a crown jewel of the Lackawanna community. And with today's rapidly changing economic development environment, coupled with the ongoing uncertainty surrounding properties owned by or affiliated with the Diocese of Buffalo, the city took extra measures to ensure that these historical structures representing Father Nelson Baker's life's work and legacy are appropriately protected for decades to come." said Charles D. Clark, City of Lackawanna Director of Development, Marketing & Public Information.

On February 26, 2024, the OLV campus was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This prestigious designation applied to the National Shrine and Basilica, the adjacent Rectory, two education buildings located just east and south of the Basilica and the OLV Charities and OLV Human Services buildings located at 780 and 790 Ridge Road, respectively. The new Lackawanna Historic Property Overlay Zoning District mirrors the footprint of the National Register of Historic Places designation.

The City of Lackawanna partnered with C&S Companies on the research, design and implementation of this project, which received support from the city's Planning Board and approval from both Mayor Annette Iafallo and the City Council.