

Village of Newark Named Finalist in Downtown Revitalization Initiative Competition

The Village of Newark is excited to announce it has advanced as a finalist to the next round of New York State's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), a statewide competition in which communities in each of the state's 10 Regional Economic Development Council's will compete to receive awards of ten-to-twenty million dollars in State funding for local development.

The Village of Newark submitted an application titled "Moving Newark Forward" in September, and was notified by a representative of Empire State Development that they were a Finger Lakes Region finalist. The Village will now make a formal presentation on Tuesday, October 12th to the selection committee, with the winner expected to be announced later this year.

Each applicant must show the community's preparedness to implement projects and an administrative capacity to see them through to completion. They must also demonstrate the community's vision, goals and strategies to implement a variety of projects that will generate local development, generate employment and strengthen the economy.

The Village's submission outlined the historic Erie Canal in the heart of downtown, while identifying several aspects of recent infrastructure investment including the reconstruction of South Main Street, major upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and a new Water Treatment Plant design, all made possible through successful grant awards. The application also highlighted the completion of the IEC Electronics expansion project, as well as other recent job creation and investment announcements.

"The Village of Newark hopes to keep the momentum going but needs DRI funding for the downtown area to become a magnet for redevelopment," said Mayor Jonathan Taylor, "There are developers that have shown interest in investing in downtown, and I am confident that receiving the DRI award would move them to action."

"Under the leadership of Mayor Taylor and the Village Board, Newark continues to progress and transform for the benefit of local businesses, residents, and visitors. It's been great to work with the village to support these revitalization efforts and secure state grants for much-needed infrastructure improvements. I congratulate the Village of Newark on this news and I look forward to a continued partnership as this celebrated and historic canal community continues to advance and grow," said Senator Pam Helming.

"I can't think of a better community than Newark for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative," said Assemblyman Brian Manktelow, "In the past two years, there has been an explosion of growth in the village, with new businesses opening, established ones expanding and beautiful landscaping going in along Route 88. Mayor Taylor and the Village Board have been proactive and forward-thinking with a real plan for the municipality. All of their hard work has paid off. I am truly honored to be able to recommend the Village of Newark for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative."

Chamber President Steven Hasseler stated, "The Greater Newark Chamber of Commerce is very pleased that the DRI selection committee has acknowledged Newark's tremendous recent business growth." He acknowledged that being able to present to the DRI selection committee will give Newark the ability to showcase its long-standing treasures while at the same time emphasizing its new energy.

"This application, as well as the process as a whole, represents a great deal of hard work by our dedicated staff and community volunteers for which I am so very appreciative. It's more than an application – it's a plan for long-term economic sustainability for the Village of Newark and the surrounding region," Mayor Taylor concluded.