



YMCA

We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YMCA PLEASED WITH EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S LAND USE DETERMINATION

The ESDC's determination that the YMCA is an appropriate use of the land purchased on Route 31 and Drake's Landing Road in Baldwinsville brings the Northwest Family YMCA closer to reality

July 15, 2010 – The Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC), the state agency that determines land use within Radisson, today reiterated that the proposed location of the Northwest Family YMCA on the corner of Route 31 and Drake's Landing Road in Lysander is an appropriate use of the land the YMCA purchased in 2006 to build the Northwest Family YMCA.

The ESDC held a public hearing on May 12, 2010 to listen to comments from area residents to determine whether the YMCA is a "community facility" as defined by the Radisson General Project Plan (GPP) and therefore an allowable use of the land the YMCA purchased to build the Northwest Family YMCA. All members of the public had equal opportunity to attend and speak at this hearing. The ESDC also accepted written statements on this issue from the public until June 14, 2010. After reviewing over 120 verbal and written comments as well as the Radisson Community Association (RCA) Mission Statement and the GPP, the ESDC Board of Directors unanimously determined that the proposed Northwest Family YMCA is indeed a "community facility" as defined by the Radisson GPP. "A majority of comments support this position, as does the language of the GPP itself," noted the ESDC.

"The reissue of the ESDC's land use determination, and its decision that the YMCA is indeed an appropriate use of the site we purchased, is very welcome news," said Hal Welsh, Executive Director of the YMCA of Greater Syracuse. "We are very pleased that we will now be able to move forward in our effort to build the Northwest Family YMCA in Baldwinsville."

Cindy Dowd Greene, Chair of the Northwest Family YMCA Board of Directors, an all-volunteer group of community leaders committed to bringing the YMCA to the northwest Syracuse suburbs, commented, "Area volunteers are very excited that we can now proceed with the Town of Lysander Planning Board process. Based on the results of the representative survey we commissioned earlier this year, we know that the great majority of our community wants the Northwest Family YMCA to be built at this location."

Community volunteers have been fundraising to build the Northwest Family YMCA since 2001, and the YMCA purchased the property at the corner of Route 31 and Drake's Landing in 2006 after a thorough and lengthy site search. To date, the group has raised 75 percent of its financial goal to begin building the new YMCA. Community members can demonstrate their support of the Northwest Family YMCA by making a pledge to the Northwest Family YMCA capital campaign. To contribute, please contact Sarah Beth Lardie, Capital Campaign Director, at 751-3055.

The YMCA of Greater Syracuse is a 152 year-old not-for-profit service organization putting Christian principles into action through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all. In Onondaga County, the YMCA is the largest provider of school age child care and youth swimming lessons and is the area's largest employer of teens. The YMCA is committed to building strong kids, strong families and strong communities and currently has more than 30,000 members in the Greater Syracuse area.

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