



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 24, 2023

\$1.8 Million Awarded through the Restore New York Communities Initiative to City of Ogdensburg

Ogdensburg, NY – City of Ogdensburg received \$1.8 million for the demolition of eight parcels, better known as the former Cheese Plant on Monday, May 22, 2023.

Governor Kathy Hochul announced more than \$112.9 million has been awarded to 70 projects through the Restore New York Communities Initiative. Restore New York supports municipal revitalization efforts



across the state, helping to remove blight, reinvigorate downtowns and generate economic opportunity in communities statewide. The program, administered by Empire State Development, is designed to help local governments revitalize their communities and encourage commercial investment, improve the local housing stock, put properties back on the tax rolls and increase the local tax base.

The 30 Main St. Redevelopment Area represents a combination of eight unique, and interconnected parcels comprising a contiguous city-block, all of which are now city-owned (3.24 acres) following tax sale foreclosure in 2009. This area at the confluence of the St. Lawrence and Oswegatchie Rivers has been steeped in manufacturing history, leaving a legacy of contamination and blighted abandoned buildings at the heart of the Marina District. This area is a hazardous void between up-and-coming private investment, and the historical residential fabric of a neighborhood at the center of the city; all within the city’s designated Brownfield Opportunity Area.

The award of Restore funds will make it possible for the city to complete the demolition of these hazardous structures, making redevelopment of this prime location a possibility. “This is a tremendous opportunity for the city and our downtown” said Mayor Mike Skelly. Director of Planning and Development, Andrea Smith said, “the city is grateful for the award and eager to get started on the catalytic project for the city.”