

# City of Binghamton

## FIRST WARD BOA REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

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### MEETING MINUTES

City Leaders and Agencies Stakeholder Meeting  
September 16, 2009

### MEETING ATTENDEES

- Tim Cleary, Broome County Legislator, 2<sup>nd</sup> District
- Richard D'Attilio, BCIDA
- Barbara Furch, Representative of Assemblywoman Lupardo
- Caroline Quidort, City of Binghamton
- Kimberly Baptiste, Bergmann Associates

### SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

***Assuming no constraints, and looking ahead 10-15 years, what is your ideal vision for the First Ward neighborhood?***

- It should be the second downtown, the "other" business district
- Downtown west
- Clinton Street with its own niche – start to diversify
- Like Owego
- It's a clean sheet of paper
- Small, service-based businesses
- Needs a theme and character to build from
- NOT another Clinton Street run
- Unique
- More off-street parking available

***What would you say are the greatest assets in the First Ward neighborhood?***

- The people are the strength, they are committed to the community
- People want to stay and thrive
- New, positive additions create change
- Charles Street Business Park
  - Owned by IDA
  - Emerson is a \$10 million investment
  - IDA committed to high standards for build-out
  - Nothing new currently lined up
  - Site could house another 4-5 companies of similar size

***What would you say are the biggest constraints or obstacles associated with revitalization of the First Ward?***

- Buildings are old
- Neighborhood is old
- Not a critical mass of consumers
- Need seed money, hard to sustain a small business
- Façade program would improve look and feel
- Small business development is very hard
- Infrastructure
- Street network and links are bad
- Railroad needs to be addressed
- Off-street parking doesn't exist but is needed
- Front Street and Clinton Street appearance
- Tichener site
- Transportation issues on Charles Street side – access almost impossible on West Street – need to open throat on Charles Street
- Parking is too close to intersections – hard to see – creates blind spots

***As a City leader or representative of a city / regional agency, what can you or your agency do to help further revitalization and redevelopment efforts in the First Ward?***

- BCIDA – small business program
- County – invest in brownfield sites (Tichener site, still privately owned)
- Aquifer under Charles Street Business Park – one of most prolific – all this water and no place to use it – how do we capitalize on it – is it potable?
- State Assembly – capital projects and rehab projects - \$125,00 for new Boys and Girls Club

***What are the most important projects / initiatives you would like to see undertaken in the First Ward in the next three years?***

- Tichener property – need to know more about it and do something with it
- Transportation – unclog Clinton Street – get rid of through traffic as regular traffic is problem enough
- Rail overpass – trucks both ways instead of just one way
- Identify what to do with the co-generation plant – could generate power for business district – people think there is a lot of opportunity associated with that – originally built for steam for International Paper – may not be efficient today