



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Town Acts Regarding Former Amerbelle Property

Town officials today reiterated their concern for public safety by taking legal action regarding the privately-owned mill complex known as Amerbelle. Today, Assistant Town Attorney Elizabeth C. Foran filed an injunctive action in Tolland Superior Court seeking permission for the Town to enter onto the premises to enhance security at the site. On Tuesday, August 20, 2013, the Vernon Town Council appropriated seventy five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to be utilized to increase the security at Amerbelle. All efforts will be made to collect the costs of any work conducted from the property owner. Since October 2012, the complex has been owned by Bridgepoint Funding Alliance, LLC. Bridgepoint's CEO is Phillip Chase Weatherspoon, and the company is headquartered in Greenwich, Connecticut, per its website.

*"Since 2012, we have pursued all avenues afforded to us, including legal measures, in order to ensure that the new owners are taking seriously the need to properly secure the structure and keep it in compliance with state and local requirements" Mayor Apel said. "We are intent on pursuing Bridgepoint until our concerns are remedied and we are satisfied that Bridgepoint is full compliance."*

The Town's documented concerns are that the structures are not being properly maintained, per the State Building and Fire Codes. *"The Town, through the Fire Marshal and Building Official are pursuing both administrative and civil remedies against Bridgepoint Financing Alliance, LLC to ensure the safety of the public."* said Mayor Apel.

**### END ###**