



Office of the Mayor
Daniel A. Champagne

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS CONTACT

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**VERNON AWARDED \$400,000 TO STRENGTHEN
ROCKVILLE'S COMMERCIAL DISTRICT**

(VERNON) Mayor Daniel A. Champagne today announced that Vernon is the recipient of \$400,000 Main Street Investment Fund (MSIF) grant designed to promote redevelopment in Rockville's downtown area. The funding, administered through the Department of Housing (DOH), will be used to make exterior renovations to Citizen's Block, a historically significant structure in Rockville's downtown, erected in 1879.

"These grants are a great way for the state to support our cities and towns in their efforts to develop and improve their commercial centers," said Governor Malloy. *"This program responds to the unique needs of individual communities all around the state by creating partnerships with local governments and merchants to improve aesthetics and pedestrian access, attract new businesses, new customers, and new residents — ultimately breathing new life into our smaller commercial centers."*

"On behalf of the citizens of Vernon, I'd like to thank Governor Malloy, and Department of Housing Commissioner, Evonne Klein for their support the Citizen's Block project," said Mayor Champagne. *"This funding marks another milestone in our efforts to restore the historical character and commercial vitality of downtown Rockville. Vernon remains committed to returning this cultural resource as "compliment to the citizens of Rockville" and will continue take steps to make our historic district vibrant again".*

The Main Street Investment Fund provides financial incentives to municipalities to improve town commercial districts, attract small businesses, grow jobs, and improve pedestrian access and livability in town centers. Vernon's project was one of thirteen chosen by the DOH. Vernon's MSIF grant award is in addition to the \$2.2 million recently awarded by DECD to remediate several brownfield sites, including the Amerbelle Complex, in order to bring commercial development to downtown Rockville.

The full text of Governor Malloy's press release can be found at <http://www.governor.ct.gov/malloy>

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