



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 17, 2014

**PRESS CONTACT**

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Daniel A. Champagne

Mayor

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Town Administrator

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**1<sup>st</sup> Alliance Lending Plans Headquarter Relocation to Rockville's Amerbelle Mill site**

(Vernon) Mayor Daniel A. Champagne today announced a joint partnership with 1<sup>st</sup> Alliance Lending that will facilitate the move of its current location in East Hartford to a new Corporate headquarters in Rockville; bringing with it the redevelopment of Amerbelle Mill and Daniels complexes and energizing downtown redevelopment.

*"1<sup>st</sup> Alliance Lending, and the Town of Vernon are committed to working together in the joint pursuit of rehabilitated, redeveloped and reconnected Amerbelle and Daniels Mill sites", said Mayor Champagne. "The town has been working very closely with Connecticut Department and Economic and Community Development (DECD) in order to put all the necessary pieces in place for a successful transition by 1<sup>st</sup> Alliance to Vernon, he said. "While significant steps have been undertaken by both the town and 1<sup>st</sup> Alliance, without the support of Governor Malloy, project backing by the DECD Brownfields Unit, and the assistance of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, this move could not have taken place", said Champagne. "Shortly, the town will be undertaking needed environment work at the sites and we could see visible redevelopment as early as the winter of 2015."*

A letter released by 1<sup>st</sup> Alliance CEO, John Dilorio, reads in part *"1<sup>st</sup> Alliance looks forward to working with the Town to remediate these properties in order to transform these sites into our new Corporate Headquarters. In addition to preserving Rockville's architectural heritage, this project will bring hundreds of jobs to Rockville."*

Since April 2014, the town has received \$2.2 Million dollars in DECD brownfields funding for the remediation of several mill complexes, with the most significant funding award of \$2 Million dollars allocated for the environmental remediation and redevelopment of the Amerbelle Mill complex.

*"This is a historic day for Vernon," said Champagne, "and I am committed to pursuing every option at our disposal that will assist in the repurposing of our mills. When I consider the work planned for Amerbelle and Daniels Mill, the development undertaken by Ken Kaplan at the Hockanum Mill and renovation of the former Roosevelt Mill site, now Loom City Lofts, I see we are re-connecting the dots of our past. These sites once had a significant place in Vernon's history and I believe their reuse is bringing about a new future and hope for the residents of Vernon. I'm just glad to be a part of it", said Champagne.*

**END**

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December 16, 2014

The Hon. Mayor Daniel A. Champagne  
Town of Vernon  
14 Park Place  
Vernon, CT 06066

Re: Redevelopment of the Amerbelle and Daniels Mill Sites

Dear Mayor Champagne:

We are excited that 1<sup>st</sup> Alliance Lending, LLC and the Town of Vernon intend to work together in pursuing the rehabilitation and redevelopment of the Amerbelle and Daniels Mill complexes.

1<sup>st</sup> Alliance looks forward to working with the Town to remediate these properties in order to transform these sites into our new Corporate Headquarters. In addition to preserving Rockville's architectural heritage, this project will bring hundreds of jobs to Rockville.

We are hopeful that a formalized development agreement with the Town will proceed from this initial letter in the coming months. I will attend this evening's meeting of the Vernon Town Council, arriving around 8:30 p.m., and will be pleased to answer any questions.

Sincerely yours,

John DiIorio  
Chief Executive Officer  
1st Alliance Lending, LLC

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