

# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### PUBLIC MEETING TO PRIORITIZE SITES FOR GRANT FUNDED BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENTS

In late 2016, the City of Norwich was awarded a \$384,000 brownfields assessment grant (\$185,000 for petroleum sites and \$199,000 for hazard substance sites) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to perform Phase I through Phase III environmental assessments and remediation planning on an undetermined number of sites through-out the City. The grant funded project assists owners of the selected brownfield properties to receive an assessment at no cost. A “brownfield” is an abandoned, vacant, or underutilized property where redevelopment or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of contamination. The City’s consultant, Tighe & Bond, has been working closely with the Planning Department and the Brownfield Stakeholders Subcommittee of the Norwich Redevelopment Agency to update the city’s brownfields inventory and to establish a list of potential sites for environmental assessment.

To ensure that municipal officials, residents, and property owners have an opportunity to comment on the proposed work activities, the Norwich Redevelopment Agency has scheduled a public meeting to be held on Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the City Hall, 100 Broadway, in Room 335 at 6 pm. At this meeting, the brownfields assessment project will be discussed and public input will be solicited to help the City determine which properties should be prioritized for environmental assessment based on factors such as public health, community need, redevelopment potential and owner interest.

Norwich, a city with significant industrial heritage, encourages the remediation and redevelopment of brownfields sites to contribute to overall improved health and the vitality of the community.

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