



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DevelopSpringfield Announces Grant for Façade Improvement for 1600 Main Street

Springfield, MA: DevelopSpringfield, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) development corporation, announced that it has awarded a \$10,000 grant for facade improvements to New England Farmworkers' Council for renovations for the new International Bier Garten located at 1600 Main Street. The grant is made possible under the organization's Corridor Storefront Improvement Program which provides grants of up to \$10,000 for exterior improvements to first floor storefronts located on State and Main Streets in Springfield.

The recently awarded funds were used to revitalize and repair the existing façade to meet building code and safety standards, and to comply with Springfield Historic Commission requirements. The grant is supporting more than \$70,000 in improvements on the façade alone. The full project is a partnership of New England Farm Workers' Council and the Fort Restaurant and is a key component efforts toward revitalization in downtown Springfield.

The project partners estimate that the project will bring more than \$2 million annually in economic benefit to the community. They also hope the project will be an example of how economic revitalization can spur downtown Springfield's renaissance and support the city's transformation into a thriving cultural and entertainment hub for western Massachusetts.

DevelopSpringfield's Corridor Storefront Improvement Program was established in 2009 to enhance the visual appeal of State and Main Streets while providing assistance to businesses making investments in these two key corridors within the city. For more information on the Corridor Storefront Improvement Program, go to www.developspringfield.com and click on "programs" or contact Jay Minkarah, DevelopSpringfield President and CEO, at (413) 209-8808 or by email at jminkarah@developspringfield.com.

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About DevelopSpringfield

DevelopSpringfield was formed in 2008 as a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) corporation to advance development and redevelopment projects, to stimulate and support economic growth, and to expedite the revitalization process within the City of Springfield. The organization's board of directors includes representatives from the city, state, and local business community. The organization's mission is to help create conditions that encourage private development with a bricks-and-mortar focus and always with an eye toward understanding and meeting Springfield's unique and diverse redevelopment needs.