



## CITY OF MANCHESTER

*Theodore L. Gatsas*

*Mayor*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Aldermen Give Green Light on Municipal Complex** *Public Works Department and Police Department find new home*

MANCHESTER, NH - - This evening the Board of Mayor and Aldermen gave the green light to the city of Manchester Municipal Complex. Mayor Ted Gatsas began, "for as long as I've been involved in city government, both as an Aldermen and now Mayor, we've been talking about the need for a new municipal complex to house the Department of Public Works and the Police Department. We must stop the lip service and move forward - now is the time and I am pleased to bring this forward."

The proposed municipal complex will be a modern centralized campus situated at the current Manchester Highway Department location on Maple Street and expanded to the current Manchester Water Works site. In total the complex will occupy 10.09 acres. "The Manchester Municipal Complex is a solution. It is a long overdue investment in our city infrastructure and will generate community improvement and overall neighborhood revitalization," commented Alderman At-Large Dan O'Neil.

The complex will house over 500 employees and be a model in public service campuses. The campus will be home to the Department of Public Works which is divided into four divisions: Highway; Parks, Recreation & Cemetery; Facilities and the Environmental Protection Division. Currently each of these divisions is housed separately within the city. Public Works Director Kevin Sheppard added, "This new complex will allow the Department of Public Works to be housed in one central location giving us the ability to maximize the use of equipment and personnel generating significant savings to city taxpayers."

Currently the City of Manchester operates five separate vehicle maintenance facilities to maintain a \$30 million vehicle fleet. The complex will centralize the facilities of the public works, police, fire and two parks and recreation facilities into one centralized fleet maintenance facility cutting infrastructure costs significantly. Further, there are serious safety concerns with the current facilities. These include but are not limited to: lack of vehicle lifts, poor ventilation, structurally unsound flooring and inadequate equipment. "Reducing costs is always a driver in any new projects but safety of our employees must be paramount. Our current facility is substandard at best; it lacks the quality and safety requirements applied to private businesses. Our public service employees are a valuable resource and we must consider their safety," added Alderman Russ Ouellette (Ward 11).

(more)

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The proposed complex will also be home to the Manchester Police Department. Police Chief David Mara began, “The Manchester Police Department is in need of a new facility for two reasons – first we have outgrown our current facility and secondly it is not designed as a critical facility.”

The current location of the Manchester Police Department has insufficient land for expansion, inadequate parking and uncontrolled site access. The new police building will be a designed “critical facility” making it protected from: natural disasters, terrorist attacks and infrastructure failures. Additionally it will have sufficient room for evidence storage and evidence control management, controlled and secure building access, a secure booking area and safe vehicle storage. “In a city the size of Manchester it’s imperative that we have an adequate home for the police department to protect our citizens,” added Dean of the Board of Alderman Bill Shea.

“This is a great day for Manchester – with this project we will have created jobs and be building a model project for other municipalities to follow,” concluded Mayor Gatsas.

The Board of Aldermen voted unanimously to approve the project concept for the Municipal Complex and move forward on an RFQ for construction project management. A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in Aldermanic Chambers at City Hall. A final vote on the bonding resolutions will take place on Tuesday, July 6, 2010 at the regularly scheduled Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting.

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*(Architects rendition of proposed City of Manchester Municipal Complex attached.)*