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Positive Declaration

Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Determination of Significance

Date: August 9, 2022

This notice is issued pursuant to Title 6, Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law.

The City of Albany Planning Board, as Lead Agency, has determined that the proposed action described below may have a significant effect on the environment and that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared.

- Lead Agency:** City of Albany Planning Board
200 Henry Johnson Boulevard, Suite 3
Albany, NY 12210
- Name of Action:** Capital City Rescue Mission Expansion, 257 South Pearl Street
- Location:** 257 South Pearl Street
Albany, NY 12202
Section Block and Lot Numbers: 76.57-2-30
- SEQR Status:** Type 1
Unlisted

Description of Action:

The proposed action involves Development Plan Review and Conditional Use Permit review and approval for the proposed expansion of a group living, other use involving the construction of a four-story, +/- 31,460 square foot building in accommodation of additional residential accommodation and facility space for a use classified as group living, other (Capital City Rescue Mission). The site is located in the City of Albany's Mixed-Use, Form-Based South End zoning district.

Reasons Supporting this Determination:

The City of Albany Planning Board, as lead agency, has considered the criteria for determining significance as set forth in SEQRA regulations at 6 NYCRR § 617.7, and has evaluated the proposed action's potential environmental impacts as identified in the Full Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) Parts 2 and 3. Extensive analysis was provided through the preparation of a SWPPP, Parking Demand Study, and Phase 1 Archeological Survey. In addition, three public workshops and one public meeting were held by the Planning Board on the proposed Capital City Rescue Mission Expansion (257 South Pearl Street) project where verbal comments were received from members of the public, and written comment

letters were received from members of the public. Several commenters indicated that the environmental review should include the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Based on this record, the Planning Board has determined that potential significant adverse environmental impacts include:

- Impact on Historic and Archeological Resources.
 - The proposed action may occur wholly or partially within, or substantially contiguous to, any buildings, archaeological site or district which is listed on the National or State Register or Historical Places, or that has been determined by the Commissioner of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation to be eligible for listing on the State Register of Historic Places.
 - The proposed action may result in the alteration of the property's setting or integrity.
 - The proposed action may result in the introduction of visual elements which are out of character with the site or property, or may alter its setting.
- Inconsistency with the existing community/neighborhood character.
 - The proposed action may create a demand for additional community services (e.g. schools, police, and fire).
 - The proposed action may create an incompatibility with surrounding uses.

Further, the Planning Board has determined that the abovementioned potential significant adverse impacts require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

Scoping:

A scoping process will be undertaken to develop a written document which outlines the topics and analyses of potential environmental impacts that will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Scope will be provided by the project sponsor. Once received, the Draft Scope will be circulated by the Planning Board to all involved and interested agencies and anyone requesting a copy. Once received, the Draft Scope will also be posted to the City of Albany Department of Planning and Development's "Development Project Case Files Page" web site for viewing or downloading at: <https://www.albanyny.gov/2085/Development-Project-Case-Files-Page>, and sent to the NYSDEC Environmental Notice Bulletin for publication. The lead agency will accept comments on the Draft Scope from involved and interested agencies and the public during a date range that will be publicized by the City of Albany Department of Planning and Development, upon receipt of the Draft Scope by the project sponsor. Written comments should be addressed to Jasleen Jaspal with the City of Albany Planning Department at the address below.

For Further Information:

Contact Person: Bradley Glass, Director
City of Albany
Department of Planning and Development

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Copies of this Notice sent to:

City of Albany, Mayor
City of Albany Common Council
City of Albany Historic Resources Commission
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 4
City of Albany, City Clerk
Albany County Planning Board
Environmental Notice Bulletin