



## CITY OF PEEKSKILL

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John G. Testa  
*Mayor*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **CITY OF PEEKSKILL SELLS KILEY CENTER TO PEEKSKILL HOUSING AUTHORITY**

**(Peekskill, New York)**... Mayor John G. Testa and members of the Common Council will join William Shands and members of the Peekskill Housing Authority to announce the sale of the Kiley Center from the City of Peekskill to the Peekskill Housing Authority on Thursday, December 19, 2002 at 3:00 pm at 709 Main Street.

On Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> members of the Peekskill Housing Authority met with city officials at City Hall to execute documents transferring ownership of the Kiley Center from the City of Peekskill to the Peekskill Housing Authority. The transaction will result in the renovations proposed for the Kiley Center to get underway. The City and the Housing Authority have worked long and hard to bring this project to fruition. With the assistance of Westchester County Planning Department and its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and the efforts of Norma Drummond this project has reached a long awaited milestone. Earlier this year, the City transferred its share of CDBG funds to the Housing Authority to facilitate the construction stage of the proposed renovations. An invitation to bid is expected to be released before the close of the year for this project.

Although the City will not own title to the property, it will continue to administer various recreational, cultural and education programs offered at the Kiley Center. The City will assist the Housing Authority in creating new educational programs to develop future leaders of Peekskill.

At the closing were Deputy Mayor Al Undly, former mayor Fran Gibbs, City Manager James Madaffari and Deputy Corporation Counsel Joseph Stargiotti representing the City of Peekskill. Chairman Larry McKenzie, Sr., Executive Director William Shands and legal counsel Gheevarghese Thankachan represented the Peekskill Housing Authority. In less than 45 minutes, the appropriate signatures were placed on the closing documents and a check was issued to the City of Peekskill for \$100,000.

“On behalf of Mayor Testa and my colleagues on the Common Council, I am pleased to represent the City in this long awaited transaction. The sale of the Kiley Center to the Housing

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Authority will ensure that the proposed renovation we've reviewed take place as envisioned", remarked Deputy Mayor Al Undly.

"This project is one phase of the cooperative partnership between the Housing Authority and the City of Peekskill. We've worked hand in hand on the Bohlmann Towers plaza improvements. The Kiley Center renovations are the next phase in the process of revitalizing the Gateway Neighborhood. On behalf of Chairman McKenzie and the Board of Commissioner, we are pleased that the sale has been completed and look forward to moving to the next stage, which will benefit all young people in Peekskill," noted Executive Director William Shands.

"The sale of the Kiley Center is the first step in executing the Gateway Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. Upon completion, the entire neighborhood will be rehabilitated and will have a very positive impact on the community," observed Frances Gibbs, former mayor.

"The Kiley Center is an important facility in the City of Peekskill. The Common Council and I are thrilled that all residents in Peekskill especially our young people will be able to use the building after the renovations are complete. The sale of the Kiley Center and its subsequent renovation by the Housing Authority is a step in the right direction for the Kiley Gateway project. We congratulate the Housing Authority for their commitment of ensuring that this project reaches completion," stated Mayor John G. Testa.

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