



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Wayne County Business Panel Discussion on Housing** *Hosted by Economic Development and Planning*

**Lyons, NY – June 8, 2022** – Housing has become a statewide and national concern highlighted by inventory constraints, rising costs, abandoned properties, and legal challenges that stem from pandemic-related foreclosures and eviction moratoriums. The Wayne County Office of Economic Development and Planning is hosting a business panel on Friday, June 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. via Zoom to discuss new programs and initiatives aimed at addressing similar housing needs and issues in Wayne County. Panelists include Mark Humbert, Director of the Regional Land Bank; Theodora Finn, President of the Greater Rochester Housing Partnership; George Getman, Executive Director of Newark Housing Authority; and Thomas Lyon, Planner at Wayne County. The discussion will be moderated by Brian Pincelli, Director of Wayne County Economic Development and Planning.

In October of 2021, the County hosted a housing round table with local landlords and housing advocates that addressed affordability and availability of housing for county residents. “We have taken steps to gain a better understanding of the housing market and to identify some of the housing issues across the County,” stated Pincelli. “Now we’re taking steps to implement targeted programs that address some of the immediate needs while also dealing with rising costs of new development, rehabilitation, ownership, and rentals.”

Two such targeted programs that are new to Wayne County will be discussed in the business panel event. They are the rental rehab program being administered by the Housing Council at Pathstone and the pre-development loan program being administered by the Greater Rochester Housing Partnership. These programs are made possible through the New York State Preservation Opportunity Program (NYS-POP), authorized by Attorney General Letitia James and managed through Enterprise Community Partners. Likewise, the County and the Land Bank have partnered to address ongoing concerns related to derelict and abandoned properties as well as to assess potential brownfield issues



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in local communities. This 90-minute morning discussion will focus on these topics as well as introduce participants to an upcoming countywide Housing Study that will identify areas of housing needs and growth by town and regions of the county. Also up for discussion are the efforts of the Land Bank to assess brownfield clean up opportunities including the recently announced \$1 million brownfield revolving loan fund. The County is looking to partner with towns and villages to address these issues. This business panel is open to public attendance. To RSVP for this discussion, contact the Wayne County Economic Development and Planning Dept. at 315-946-5919 or email [wayneplanning@co.wayne.ny.us](mailto:wayneplanning@co.wayne.ny.us). For more information, visit [web.co.wayne.ny.us/428/Housing](http://web.co.wayne.ny.us/428/Housing).

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