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DAVID QUESTIONS SPENDING \$118,452 ON INCOMPLETE SOUTH SIDE COMMONS PROJECT -DAVID CALLS ANNOUNCEMENT PREMATURE-

(BINGHAMTON, NY) Binghamton Mayoral Candidate Rich David today expressed his concern over the status of the South Side Commons Project, specifically questioning why City Officials are spending \$118,452 to design a project when they have not purchased or secured all the private land necessary to make the project a reality.

"The South Side Commons project involves multiple parcels of land and several different property owners," said David. "The City has spent years trying to acquire the various pieces of land, and to date has not yet secured many of the prime parcels needed to advance the project. I question the wisdom of spending \$118,452 to design a project on land you don't even own yet. This announcement is premature to say the least."

David added that the original South Side Commons project, which started under the previous administration, was supposed to include large pieces of land from Vestal Avenue to the Number 5 Restaurant. The Project is also supposed to build enthusiasm in the South Bridge Business District and enhance economic opportunities for nearby merchants.

"I also question why the City is moving forward by spending \$118,452 when not all the property owners are on board, and by moving forward prematurely has the City given up on trying to ensure their participation?" stressed David. "Now that the City has announced the design phase has begun and that the project is moving forward, does that mean that the size and scope has been reduced because not all the land has been acquired? Has the City given up on the original concept? It's a waste of taxpayer dollars to spend money to design a project when so many fundamental questions such as size, scope and participation have not been finalized. These questions must be answered to ensure the long term success of this initiative. We should not begin design work on a partial project."