

Day Street land transferred, clearing way for phase one of Washington Village rebuild

By Robert Koch



Photo: Alex Von Kleydorff / Hearst Connecticut Media

Department of Housing and Urban Development Regional Administrator James J. Reed talks with Norwalk Mayor Harry Rilling at the Choice Neighborhood Phase 1 Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Washington Village housing complex reconstruction, on Monday November 28, 2016 in Norwalk Conn.

NORWALK — The [Norwalk Housing Authority](#) and developer Trinity Financial have gained control of two Day Street parcels that will become home to 80 apartments as part of the Washington Village Transformation Plan.

On Monday, the city's law department filed with the Norwalk Town Clerk's Office real-estate conveyance papers transferring the land at 13 and 20 Day St. from the city to the Housing Authority.

Under plan, the Housing Authority purchased the parcels for \$1 apiece and will lease them to Trinity Financial, the Boston-based real-estate development chosen to rebuild Washington Village.

[Curtis O. Law](#), Housing Authority executive director, anticipates that [Dimeo Construction Co.](#), the Providence, R.I.-based general contractor responsible for phase one of the transformation plan, will begin mobilizing shortly on the development site.

"We should see something within the next few days. They'll start bringing in some equipment," Law said. "It looks like it's going to happen. If the weather holds up it will be a real blessing and, hopefully, they can make up some time."

The Housing Authority and Trinity Financial had hoped to break ground in 2015 but a lawsuit filed by The Friends of Ryan Park halted that schedule. The nonprofit organization, which was founded to beautify the nearby two-acre public park, argued against rebuilding the public housing complex in a flood plain.

In early 2016, a judge rejected the group's appeal, allowing the Housing Authority and Trinity Financial to restart the planning process for phase one.

"We're set to go," said [Cesar Ramirez](#), chairman of the Housing Authority's board of commissioners. "Finally, after so many years and so many efforts and the work of a lot of people, I believe that our community is going to be very happily, especially the residents of Washington Village."

Ramirez thanked Rilling, [Common Council](#) members and the city's delegation in Hartford and Washington, D.C., for supporting the rebuild plan. Built in

the 1940s, Washington Village is among the oldest public-housing complexes in Connecticut.

The Housing Authority anticipates that the new three-story building at 13 Day St. will open for residents at the end of 2017 and the five-story building at 20 Day St. will open in the first quarter of 2018. Reconstruction of the existing Washington Village will follow.