

## Murphy, Mayor Jarjura Announce \$15 Million to Revitalize Waterbury Industrial Commons is in the Bank

Today, Waterbury Mayor Michael Jarjura formally signed the paperwork necessary to acquire the \$15 million Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) secured in the federal appropriations process to invest in the city of Waterbury.

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WATERBURY, CT - Today, Waterbury Mayor Michael Jarjura formally signed the paperwork necessary to acquire the \$15 million Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) secured in the federal appropriations process to invest in the city of Waterbury. The funds will be used to assist in the remediation of the Waterbury Industrial Commons on Thomaston Avenue, former home of the Chase Brass & Copper Company.

"This is an enormous opportunity for Waterbury to revitalize a site that will attract new businesses and jobs to the city. Within the next few months, we will be seeing shovels in the ground and clean up efforts underway to put this site back in operation. I'm thrilled to have worked with Mayor Jarjura and his team to bring this project along from a lofty idea to reality in such a short time," said Murphy.

"The City of Waterbury is very grateful to Congressman Murphy for his recognition that the city's contributions to the effort to win World War II left a difficult legacy that needed attention. This \$15 million investment will result in a true, public-private partnership that will benefit the City of Waterbury on many levels," said Mayor Jarjura.

In June of 2008, Mayor Jarjura and other Waterbury officials came to Washington, D.C. to make the case with Murphy to Congressional leaders that the U.S. government needs to invest in its urban economies, starting with cleaning up old, polluted military-industrial sites.

Between 1913 and 1980, the Waterbury Industrial Commons was owned and operated by the Chase Brass & Copper Company. The plant on Thomaston Avenue immediately came under contract with the United States Government for the production of munitions during both World War I and World War II.

During World War II, the Chase Metal Works plant, according to news reports, worked around the clock to supply hundreds of millions of casings, fuses and castings for the war effort. According to a recovered company document, every pound of Chase brass and copper went to war uses during World War II - 92% for war munitions and 8% to war

industries. In fact, so great was the production done at the Chase Metal Works plant, that both the Departments of War and the Navy awarded the plant awards for wartime production of brass and copper products.

The company continued to manufacture at the site until 1976 and vacated the plant in 1980. Soon after the Chase Brass & Copper Company vacated the plant, it became known as the Waterbury Industrial Commons and has since been home to a variety of industrial and warehousing tenants.

Since Mayor Jarjura's visit to Washington, Congress passed and President Bush signed into law a federal defense measure that included \$15 million for Waterbury's clean up project. Waterbury will now complete steps to acquire the property so that clean up efforts can begin.

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