



Residential complex plan for Lyndhurst criticized

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LYNDHURST — Township officials and some residents are opposing a proposal for a 374-unit residential complex on an industrial site on Orient Way.

Commissioners said they would block attempts by Russo Developers of Hackensack to build the five-story complex on an 8.8-acre parcel.

"This is a mini-EnCap mess," Township Commissioner Joseph Abruscato said Monday at a special public meeting held to discuss the proposal. "The soil has to be horribly contaminated. I have zero faith in its ability to be remediated. I don't want any part of this."

The proposal, now in the planning stage, will be submitted to the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission, which has jurisdiction in deciding the project's fate, officials said.

Earlier this month, Russo Development purchased Bedroc Contracting., a recycling and demolition business that has received several fines for safety and environmental violations.

Russo officials said the purchase was made to upgrade the area and that a residential complex would be an improvement over the three-story industrial plant that generates heavy truck traffic.

"We think the site is very suitable for redevelopment," Ed Russo, the company's president, said Tuesday. "We know that the community was very concerned with an industrial business right next to homes. This will be a high quality residential complex. ... It should be a great improvement."

The project, dubbed Meadow Crossing, would have 247 one-bedroom units, 110 two-bedroom units, 15 three-bedroom units and 464 parking spaces, according to the plans blueprints.

Russo would not say how much his company paid for the property.

About 30 residents who attended the special meeting complained about the proposed complex's size and density and the amount of traffic a new complex would bring to the neighborhood.

"These condos are right next to a recreation field where children are playing," said Elaine Stella, a resident. "You don't know who's going to be in these things. ... This is going to bring more cars, more pollution. Give the town a break."

Township officials said the project will strain the town's schools, roadways and emergency services and will submit their findings when the plan is submitted to the Meadowlands Commission.

"This is way too dense," Mayor Richard DiLascio said. "This is not what we need. We need a property that's going to work for us."

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1. **unnecessary1** says: Just what we need, more buildings, more ppl, more traffic, more noise, more pollution and more drain on our school and emergency systems. I wonder who is gonna get the kick back when this monstrosity is forced on us.
2. **marsh1952** says: I guess in addition to Commissioner Abruscato's many duties for the Township he is also a certified environmental expert or consultant who has the ability to determine that the ground is contaminated and horribly contaminated since he has inspected, tested and evaluated the site? I would recommend that the commissioner be advised to stay within his realm of knowledge and expertise when handing out quotes for publication

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