



Welcome Home Westchester campaign releases video on benefits of PILOTs

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Armonk, NY In response to some common misunderstandings and misconceptions, the Welcome Home Westchester campaign released an animated video to explain the benefits of Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) and how it can be used to create essential workforce opportunities and to address the need for affordable housing.

The short video tackles a rather complex subject while breaking down the step-by-step process in an easy-to-follow, comprehensive manner. When participants in public meetings who are opposed to building the housing we need in their communities sometimes inaccurately portray this financial tool as a “gift to developers” or a “backroom deal,” members of the community and sometimes volunteers on local governing boards themselves may not understand the important role they play in developing housing, the transparency that goes into the review of applications, or the quantifiable economic benefits for the community.

“PILOTs are vital to the building process yet there are many misconceptions around them due to preconceived notions about their purpose and operation,” said Seth Mandelbaum, attorney and managing partner at McCullough, Goldberger & Staudt, LLP said.

“I applaud the Welcome Home Westchester Campaign and its partners for taking the initiative to create a video breaking down the complexity of PILOT programs. Hopefully, this will go a long way in educating the public.”

The Welcome Home Westchester campaign, formed in June to help combat the housing crisis in Westchester County, believes that the video will quickly bring interested members of the community up to speed and help them gain a more thorough understanding on how a PILOT works and the numerous benefits that it can bring to their communities.

“With this video, the Welcome Home Westchester campaign simplified the concept of the PILOT program as a beneficial tool to encourage development without diminishing its value,” Michael Murphy, of Murphy Brothers Contracting said. “Westchester County needs town boards and independent developers to sit at the same table and find the synergy to solve this housing crisis that affects us all.”

The full video can be viewed on YouTube <https://youtu.be/k7o7cf8oKs0>

For more information on the “Welcome Home Westchester” campaign, please visit welcomehomewestchester.org.

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