

LOCAL NEWS

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Midtown Thriving Initiative in Kingston chosen for nationwide pilot project



Kingston City Hall can be seen on Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023. (Tania Barricklo/Daily Freeman)



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KINGSTON, N.Y. — The city’s Midtown Thriving initiative was selected by the Full Frame Initiative as one of four nationwide pilot projects under its Community Engagement Initiative, Mayor Steve Noble’s office announced Wednesday, Oct. 2.

The “social change” organization “partners with organizations, systems, and communities across the county to fundamentally shift their focus from fixing problems to fostering wellbeing,” Noble’s office said in a press release.

Officials said Midtown Thriving collaboration will primarily help the city “evaluate the well-being benefits and tradeoffs of potential infrastructure projects, leading to better local decisions about how, when, whether, and what is built.”

“We are thrilled to partner with the Full Frame Initiative to delve into deeper community engagement so that we have the data we need to make informed, equitable, and impactful decisions on future projects,” Noble said in a prepared statement. “We have been using every tool available to incentivize the creation of new housing, spur economic development, and revitalize our neighborhoods. This research will help us best focus our efforts in the most strategic approaches.”

Under the FFI collaboration, Noble’s office said, a group of “credible messengers” do intensive outreach throughout the Midtown Neighborhood. The public outreach efforts include a survey available in English and Spanish that will close on Sunday, Nov. 3. The survey can be found at <https://surveys.wiatt.org/s3/Kingston>.

“I’m proud of the comprehensive approach that the City is taking to gather community input for this important planning process for the Midtown neighborhood,” Bartek Starodaj, the city’s director of housing initiatives, said in a prepared statement. “This novel approach seeks to understand the needs and desires of Midtown’s diverse residents and small businesses through the lens of community well-being.”

In November 2023, the city and Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress won a Brownfield Opportunity Area grant for \$238,559 from the New York Department of State.

Noble's office said this will help the city and Pattern for Progress create a plan for the redevelopment of vacant and abandoned properties within a 270-acre area flanking the Broadway corridor. That project kicked off last April, officials added.

The final plan will then be submitted to the state to complete the Brownfield Opportunity Area Nomination, Noble's Office said. Officials added that this designation will prioritize development in the area, give preference for state programs, and eligibility for pre-development funding while unlocking additional brownfield cleanup program tax credits for property owners and developers.

For more information, visit <https://engagekingston.com/midtown-thriving>.

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