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City chooses fourth firm to develop downtown north parcels

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Mayor Bill Finch announced that POKO Partners will be the fourth proposed developer for the planned Downtown North Village District project, a six-acre parcel spanning six city blocks. An initial set of three developers were announced on April 17.

POKO Partners of Port Chester, N. Y., was selected for City Block 311, which is bounded by Golden Hill Street, Middle Street, Gold Street and Housatonic Avenue. The block contains vacant lots and a small tavern building formerly known as "Dolan's Corner."

"POKO Partners is one of the Northeast's most respected firms in urban redevelopment," Finch said. "We are very fortunate to have them participating in the future of our downtown."

The project proposed by POKO Partners includes demolition of the tavern and new construction of 60 units of new housing, 37,000 square feet of commercial space and an as-yet-undetermined number of off-street parking spaces.

"POKO brings a strong background in development, construction and property management in one package," said Donald Eversley, director of Planning & Economic Development.

POKO Partners has been active throughout the tri-state area, including the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn and Harlem in New York; Carlstadt, N.J.; and Stonington and Norwalk. In Bridgeport, POKO recently started construction on the Clinton Commons housing project on the West Side in partnership with the Bridgeport YMCA and also manages the CitiTrust, Arcade and Golden Hill buildings downtown.

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