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**RED BANK REPUBLICANS PUSH JERSEY CITY-STYLE HIGH RISE, VISION FOR
DOWNTOWN URBANIZATION**

RED BANK -- Red Bank Republican council-members Linda Schwabenbauer, Mike Whelan and Mark Taylor are facing staunch opposition by Democratic council-members to their Jersey City-style high rise proposal meant for the center of historic downtown Red Bank. The proposals would chart an aggressive course for the urbanization of downtown Red Bank, an initiative led by 25-year old councilman Mike Whelan.

The proposals are in response to a request made by the borough to redevelop the White Street Parking Lot, the central parking lot for use to patronize downtown businesses. The proposals reach up to 12 stories, structures that would instantly become the largest buildings in downtown Red Bank, dwarfing others in size. They each come with hundreds of apartment style units, retail, and parking growing out of the 2.5 acre plot packed between The Dublin House and Bow Tie Cinema.

"We're talking about a structure that is three times the height of the Galleria dropped right in the center of downtown Red Bank," said Red Bank Councilman Ed Zipprich. "The Republican Plan would, quite literally, cast a shadow across half of historic downtown Red Bank. In the middle of the afternoon, walking down Monmouth Street would feel like you're in a back alley in Manhattan. These proposals are ridiculous and I will do everything I can to ensure they do not become reality."

"Families don't move to Red Bank because they want to live in a major metropolis. Often, they come here specifically to get away from that sort of environment," said Red Bank Councilwoman Kathy Horgan. "The Republican Plan for Red Bank hands the keys over to developers and seeks to make our 'cool little town' the next Jersey City. I am flat out rejecting the Republicans' proposals and their plan for our town. Once the public hears of this, I think they'll be convinced that we need to maintain our village-style downtown."

"The Republican Plan is a non-starter," said Red Bank Councilman Erik Yngstrom. "Our water and sewage system is more than a century old, and is under tremendous strain as



it is. Adding what could potentially be thousands of new residents would undoubtedly lead to chaos in our infrastructure and major damages would cost Red Bank taxpayers tremendously. Our schools are already one of the most underfunded in the state, and adding hundreds more children to the school system would create unbearable strain on teachers, administrators, and fellow students. This is a half-baked idea and we need to kill The Republican Plan.”

When asked about the proposals, Whelan was quoted by Tri-City News as saying, “I love them.” Mayor Pasquale Menna said “I repeat my comment from last December: this isn’t going to work.”

The proposals were finally made public Wednesday, May 24th, with design images and details provided by the Borough.

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