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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Board of Selectmen Vote to Proceed with Plan for New Public Safety Facility and Additional Downtown Parking**

June 20, 2003 ... First Selectman Richard V. Bergstresser today announced that the Board of Selectmen voted after its June 19, 2003 Board of Selectmen executive session to proceed with The HB Nitkin Group proposal to sell the Town the Armory property and adjacent parking lot at 230 Mason Street. The purchase begins Phase I of a three-phased plan to improve the downtown municipal complex.

The plan includes:

- Phase I -- A new public safety facility for the Police Department
- Phase II -- A renovated Fire and emergency functions facility and
- Phase III -- Razing of the existing Police Administration Building, which then could be developed as a parking structure for more than 250 cars.

In Phase I, the Town would purchase from The HB Nitkin Group the Armory property and adjacent parking lot located at 230 Mason Street for \$4.544 million and swap a Town parking lot located at the intersection of Milbank Avenue and Mason Street with the Nitkin Group.

The HB Nitkin Group's proposal includes the exchange of a parking lot because the Nitkin Group must provide parking spaces for Greenwich Financial Center employees on Fawcett Place. Currently, the employees park at the Armory garage, which would be sold to the Town for the public safety facility. The 65 spaces in the Mason/Milbank lot will be open to the general public weekday evenings and throughout weekends and holidays.

Phase I removes 65 day-time-only spaces from the downtown municipal complex. Phase III adds parking to the downtown – about 105 spaces currently used by the Police and Fire Departments will be returned to shoppers, diners and theatre goers when the Police move to their new facility at the Armory site. This would be a net gain of about 40 parking spaces to the Town. In addition, when the existing Police Administration Building is razed, a new parking structure could be constructed for more than 250 cars.

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Mr. Bergstresser has sent a letter to The HB Nitkin Group confirming that the Town will proceed immediately with its approval process to gain consent for Phase I of the plan with Planning and Zoning, the Board of Estimate and Taxation and the Representative Town Meeting.

“After many months of negotiation,” said Mr. Bergstresser, “I am pleased that we have come to agreement with The HB Nitkin Group. The Nitkin proposal provides us a unique opportunity to improve to our downtown municipal complex at a very fair price.

“After the Town approval process is complete, we expect to close the land sale by the end of January 2004. The plan is to begin the architectural design for the new public safety facility in Spring 2004, start construction by Summer 2005 and have the Police Department move into its new facility about 18 months later in 2006.

“As I have said before, this is an “out-of-the-box” solution that  
Lets us keep the Police Department in Central Greenwich where people have told us they want it  
Eliminates the need to relocate the Police Department during construction  
Immediately will open 105 parking spaces on Greenwich Avenue and surrounding streets when the police and fire departments move from the Police Administration Building in 2006 and  
Provides space to build a new parking facility for more than 250 cars.”

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