



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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NEW YORK

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

## **Mayor Gary R. McCarthy joins Rivers Casino & Resort and Clancy Real Estate to announce housing opportunities for casino employees as part of Walk to Work initiative**

**SCHENECTADY** – Mayor Gary R. McCarthy, Scott Clay, Director of Community Relations for Rivers Casino & Resort Schenectady, and Kelly Canuet, Realtor® for Clancy Real Estate, today announced homeownership opportunities for prospective employees of Rivers Casino & Resort and developments taking place at Mohawk Harbor, as part of Mayor McCarthy’s Walk to Work initiative.

“Schenectady continues to grow and foster new opportunities. We are excited to work with our major employers, including Rivers Casino, to highlight the walk-ability of our community,” said Mayor McCarthy. “Rivers, like many of our major employers, can be reached by a short walk from our great neighborhoods. Beyond the convenience of living and working here, there is much more to love with our exciting attractions such as our great restaurants, live entertainment at Proctors and our other theaters, and more. Live, work, and play, Schenectady is a great bet,” said Mayor McCarthy.

There are currently over 40 homes listed on the Multiple Listing Service within a 20-minute walk of the developing Rivers Casino and Mohawk Harbor site. Many of the homes are within the \$80,000-\$99,000 range, with monthly mortgage, tax and insurance payments in line with typical rents in the surrounding area. The Walk to Work initiative aims to encourage employees to locate close to their employers as research shows that pedestrian-oriented communities outperform car-oriented communities economically, increase property values, increase quality of life, and reduce healthcare costs to employers.

“As a resident of Schenectady and local realtor for homes in the city, I have seen firsthand the positive changes and progress that Schenectady is making. The younger generations are moving back to cities to be close to work, shopping, dining and entertainment options, and are increasingly seeking homes that are within walking distance to their job. There are many high quality, affordable housing options that are within a short walk to the new employment opportunities at Rivers Casino and the Mohawk Harbor development,” said Kelly Canuet, Realtor® for Clancy Real Estate, a Capital District-based real estate brokerage firm.

Rivers Casino & Resort is a \$330 million project that will have a 50,000-square-foot gaming floor with 1,150 slot machines, 63 gaming tables and 16 poker tables attached to a 165-room hotel and a 10,000-square-foot banquet facility capable of hosting up to more than 900 people for conventions and special events, one of the largest spaces in the region. The casino will take full advantage of its riverfront position with outdoor patios and pre-function spaces. It is expected to open in the first quarter of 2017.

Rivers Casino & Resort will be located adjacent to a new mixed-use Mohawk Harbor development currently under construction by the Galesi Group, which constitutes an additional \$150 million investment in the 60-acre riverfront property. The mix of residential, retail and commercial space will include a 124-room Courtyard by Marriott and a 50-slip harbor on the Mohawk River and Erie Canal.

The operator of Rivers Casino & Resort, Rush Street Gaming, operates three other casinos, all of which have been named a 2015 “Best Place to Work” or “Top Workplace” by their team members. All positions at Rivers Casino & Resort are open for application at [www.riverscasinoandresort.com/careers](http://www.riverscasinoandresort.com/careers).

Mary Cheeks, General Manager of Rivers Casino & Resort, said, “The Walk to Work program is a great initiative for the residents of Schenectady, and we are proud to work with the city and the HOMES Program. Rivers Casino & Resort will have more than 1,000 good paying jobs, which will be a tremendous benefit and source of opportunity to not only the city, but the entire Capital Region.”

### **About the HOMES Program**

The award winning HOMES Program started out with 9 partners (Key Bank, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Blake, the Schenectady City School District, the Gazette, NBT Bank, U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Legere Restorations, SRG Architects, Open Stage Media) and continues to bring in additional partners (NBT Bank, Greater Capital District Association of Realtors, CDTA, Prospect Lending, Coldwell Banker, SONYMA, Trustco, The Home Depot, Creating Why Media, Capital District Community Loan Fund, NYSHCR, Schenectady County Habitat for Humanity, Community Land Trust of Schenectady, Better Neighborhoods Inc, Homestead Funding, M&T Bank, Miranda Real Estate Group, Inc, CM Fox Realty, SEFCU).

### **About Rush Street Gaming**

Founded by Neil Bluhm and Greg Carlin, Rush Street Gaming and its affiliates have developed and operate successful casinos in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Des Plaines, IL (Chicago area). By placing an emphasis on superior design and outstanding customer service, Rush Street Gaming has become one of the leading casino developers in the United States. Existing casinos generate over \$1 billion in annual gaming revenues, and all Rush Street Gaming casinos were voted a 2015 “Best Place to Work” or “Top Workplace” by their team members.

### **About Clancy Real Estate**

Kevin Clancy, founder of Clancy Real Estate, was voted the #1 Real Estate agent in the Times Union Reader poll of the "best of" in the Capital Region in 2012 and has been providing real estate brokerage and appraisal services to the Capital District for over 20 years.

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