

Mount Vernon, Yonkers, New Rochelle Hold Retail Development Conference

by Eric Gendron
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A conference to discuss the development and expansion of retail in Mount Vernon, Yonkers and New Rochelle. Photo Credit: File

MOUNT VERNON, N.Y. -- Officials from the cities of Mount Vernon, Yonkers and New Rochelle will join the International Council of Shopping Centers on Friday for a conference to discuss how to increase Lower Westchester's retail profile

The conference will begin in the City Council Chambers at Mount Vernon City Hall at 7:45 a.m.

"Is Your Downtown Retail Ready? Understanding What Retailers Want," will bring developers together with retailers and municipal planners to explore how Westchester's downtowns can better attract retail development.

"The three cities are the linchpin of Lower Westchester," Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano said in a statement. "That's why it is essential we work together on regional issues. I congratulate Mayor [Ernest] Davis and his development team for taking the lead in developing this effort, and look forward to future collaborative efforts to benefit Westchester's cities."

The International Council of Shopping Centers, the 50,000 member trade association for the global retail real estate industry, will lead the effort in conjunction with the Mount Vernon Department of Planning and Community Development, the New Rochelle Downtown BID, the New Rochelle Department of Development, the Yonkers Department of Planning and Development and the Yonkers Industrial Development Agency.

The conference will be moderated by Lamont Blackstone, of G.L. Blackstone and Associates in Mount Vernon and also will feature **Jonathan H. Gordon, president of Admiral Real Estate Services**; Adam W. Ifshin, president and chief executive officer of DLC Management Corporation, and Scott Auster, managing director of Grid Properties.

"We hope this will mark the beginning of targeted collaboration efforts among Mount Vernon, Yonkers and New Rochelle in developing regional strategies to attract development," said Blackstone, "Together the three cities represent an enormous customer base, and one that developers and retailers should explore. Our job is to determine how we can best make it attractive to investors."