

VERONA

Township of Verona, New Jersey



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Township of Verona is excited to announce that it has reached a tentative deal to purchase the property formerly occupied by Cameco and the adjacent residential houses for redevelopment to help meet the Township's Affordable Housing obligations. The tract of land on Pine Street at Bloomfield Avenue is approximately 2.3 acres of previously developed land. The tract is adjacent to the former Service League property which the Township acquired years ago.

Cameco, which made private-label ham and turkey products for supermarkets, operated for over sixty years from the factory near the intersection of Pine Street and Bloomfield Avenue, prior to ceasing operations earlier this year.

At a Special Meeting on Saturday, November 10, the Township Council unanimously voted to introduce an ordinance authorizing the funding and acquisition of the Cameco Tract.

The Township is committed to satisfying the constitutionally required affordable housing obligation, but wishes to do so with the least amount of disturbance to currently undeveloped lands (properties) or to the well-established residential neighborhoods surrounding them. It is the goals of the Township to satisfy this obligation while also preserving what open space Verona has left. The Township Administration and the Council have been working tirelessly to work towards a settlement that meets the needs of the Township and the affordable housing community.

It is the opinion of the Township that the Cameco lot, which is conveniently located adjacent to Bloomfield Avenue is a great location for development of this type with ease of access to mass transit, especially bus routes along the Avenue, and is within walking distance of the centers of three business districts which eases access to the rest of the community.

Saturday's Ordinance Introduction satisfies just the first step in the process the Township needs to acquire the Cameco tract. The second reading and a public hearing on the proposed ordinance are scheduled for regular Township Council meeting on Monday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building.