

PLANS MOVE FORWARD FOR FORMER BISHOP MCDEVITT SCHOOL BUILDING TO BECOME ECO VILLAGE

A Local NFL Lineman's Game Plan to Be a Crusader for the Community

HARRISBURG, PA – NFL offensive tackle, Harrisburg-native and Milton Hershey School graduate, Garry Gilliam has gained possession of the former Bishop McDevitt school. The building had been vacant since 2013 until William Penn Holdings Company acquired the 115,000-square foot building in 2019. Gilliam's community development organization, The Bridge, has leased the building and will advance plans for a coworking office space that is part of the broader Eco Village plan. The vacant building had become a target for graffiti, but will now foster constructive collaboration.

The Bridge engaged 2020 Engineering to undertake all new development work. Renovations began on the building and the iconic football field where top recruit LeSean McCoy and Ricky Watters once played is intended to be preserved and repurposed for a community entertainment area. Gilliam said, "I've always been taught, 'leave a place better than you found it.' Whether it's the locker room, an abandoned school building, my community or the planet -- I'm going to do my part. We're doing community development, but we want to do it sustainably." Gilliam formed The Bridge as an organization that aims to "span the tide" and build bridges for others to gain access to basic resources, with a focus on physiological needs and environmental sustainability.

The Bridge ultimately aims to acquire 5 to 30 acres in Harrisburg for sustainable Eco-Village campuses that will produce healthy fresh food, clean water and renewable energy. The development plans include co-working space, housing units, commercial-retail, entertainment and indoor urban agriculture as part of an AgroFoodTech Innovation Center. Several sites have been considered including the 25-acre William Penn High School campus owned by the Harrisburg School District that has been closed since 2008.

The vision for The Bridge is to empower and uplift those held back by poverty and/or lack of basic literacy. Through workshops centrally focused on homeownership, financial literacy, and job training; The Bridge will be looking to revitalize Pennsylvania's state capital. The Bridge's goal is to create local sustainable environmental and economic development while creating training opportunities and educational advancement in partnership with local colleges, university institutions and expanding/ existing corporations. Once built, The Bridge will serve as a precedent setting model for urban and rural communities around the state of Pennsylvania, the nation, and the world. In addition, this project will demonstrate an array of new technologies that produce local healthy fresh food, clean water, and renewable energy from the conversion of food and green wastes.

<u>Note</u>: If you would like to help in bringing this historic structure, or others, back to greatness, contact 'The Bridge' at -<u>volunteer@thebridgehbg.com-</u> with how you'd like to contribute.

The Bridge also includes the community in all aspects, even planning and design, so ALL suggestions for included amenities and workshops please email -hello@thebridgehbg.com-

(LEARN MORE at <u>www.thebridge.com</u>)

About Garry Gilliam: Gilliam attended the Milton Hershey School in Hershey, PA and received a full-ride athletic scholarship to the Pennsylvania State University to play football. Gilliam graduated from the university and entered the NFL in 2014 after signing with the Seattle Seahawks. He recently played for the San Francisco 49ers and he is currently a free agent.

About 2020 Engineering: 2020 ENGINEERING is a consulting company specializing in the development and implementation of civil engineering designs that utilize the best of today's conventional engineering practices along with new, emerging and alternative technologies. 2020 has a broad range of public and private engineering design and project management experience applied to low impact site development, and sustainable "deep green" building strategies.