



The Hartford Announces Plans to Expand Real Estate Footprint in Hartford and Donate Land for Hartford Magnet School Site

Acquisition of 140 Garden Street will enhance company's commitment to the city that has served as a home to its headquarters since 1810

HARTFORD, Conn. - The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc., (NYSE: HIG) announced today that it intends to purchase the property of 140 Garden Street and parcels of Fraser Place in Hartford. The 16 acres of property are adjacent to The Hartford's current headquarters on Asylum Avenue. The property purchase, which is contingent on The Hartford securing certain state and local permits and approvals, will expand the company's footprint in the Asylum Hill neighborhood by 67 percent. The terms of the agreement with the seller, 140 Garden Street Partners, LLC, were not disclosed.

The Hartford's headquarters campus currently sits on 24 acres just west of the capital city's downtown core, a spot it has occupied since 1921. The Hartford does not plan to use all of the property for its own purposes: the company announced that it will work with the City of Hartford to donate, at no cost to the city, a parcel of the land for a potential future new home for the Pathways to Technology Magnet School.

"Hartford has been our home for nearly 200 years and we are proud to express our continued commitment to the city," said Ramani Ayer, The Hartford's chairman and chief executive officer. "This purchase will strengthen our connection to the Asylum Hill neighborhood, affording us needed flexibility to remain headquartered here and enhancing our options to participate in future development initiatives. We are particularly excited about working with the city on our land donation for the school. The company has long supported education in the City of Hartford and is committed to helping prepare the future workforce for jobs in the burgeoning fields of financial services and technology and, in that regard, there is no more productive use for the land."

"We all share the immense pride of having The Hartford's stag as one of the city's proudest icons and a deep part of Hartford's continually evolving history spanning three centuries," said Hartford City Mayor Eddie A. Perez. "As one of the three Hartford-based Fortune 100 companies and the third largest employer in the state, The Hartford has been a big supporter of our city, our schools and our development efforts, and I am pleased that they are deepening their roots in the city by purchasing the property and making a significant new investment in our Asylum Hill neighborhood."

"The announcement is an early Christmas present for everyone working to increase jobs, attract capital and retain talent as The Hartford yet again demonstrates its exceptional commitment to the Region's economic future," said Oz Griebel, president and chief executive officer of the MetroHartford Alliance. "We look forward to working with Ramani Ayer and The Hartford team in executing its expansion plans and, by using Hartford 2010 as a catalyst, in making Asylum Hill an ever more dynamic component of the city's ongoing revitalization."

"We are thrilled to have identified an excellent site for the Pathways to Technology Magnet School," said Dr. Steven J. Adamowski, Superintendent of Hartford Public Schools. "The Hartford has long been a great partner of the Hartford Public Schools. Earlier this year we were excited to learn of The Hartford's \$1,000,000 commitment of support to the Teach For America program in this city and this donation is another wonderful gift from our corporate neighbors. This particular location is within walking distance of a number of financial services companies, which makes it a great spot for this school. It will also give The Hartford and other employers in the city ready access to interns and potential future employees, while offering excellent career development opportunities for our students."

Over the coming months, The Hartford will evaluate potential future uses for the property, but has no immediate construction plans. In addition to donating the property for the proposed school, The Hartford will continue its participation in planning related to the Hartford 2010 initiative, with the new property allowing the company greater flexibility to consider development proposals for the Farmington-Asylum Trident.

In February 2004, Massachusetts Mutual Financial Group announced its plan to vacate the Garden Street building, leaving it without a permanent tenant for the past four years. The property has been vacant since the company moved the last 150 employees out in March 2006. Due to the current state of the existing building on the Garden Street property and the view of architects and engineers that it is unusable for The Hartford as office space, the company plans to file for a demolition permit with the City of Hartford. As The Hartford embarks on an approximately \$70 million capital improvement project to upgrade its information technology infrastructure on its campus, the company will initially use portions of the newly acquired property to relieve an acute and growing parking shortage for its employees. Currently, The Hartford uses a shuttle bus system to

transport approximately 600 employees daily from a remote lot near Union Station, the lease for which expires in 2010.

"As The Hartford has expanded its employee population in the city, our parking shortfall has grown," said The Hartford's spokesman Joshua King. "At current projections for our campus population, the challenge may soon become a crisis. New mass transit options for the Hartford area are still in the future and the leased lots we currently depend on have been identified as attractive to developers. Facing these realities, we either need to find room for our employees to park or begin to make tough decisions about where to base them in the future."

The Hartford's headquarters have been located on Asylum Avenue since they moved there from downtown in 1921. The company's Asylum Avenue and 55 Farmington Avenue locations house approximately 7,000 employees and contractors. In total, The Hartford employs about 13,000 people in Connecticut, making the company the state's largest insurance company employer and the third largest private employer.

For more than a decade, The Hartford has focused much of its philanthropic efforts on public education in Hartford. Earlier this year, the company announced a \$1 million grant to Teach For America to support the organization's expansion to bring some of the nation's most outstanding future leaders to teach in Hartford Public Schools. In 2006, similar to prior years, the company contributed \$290,000 in support of its three partnership schools in the city's Asylum Hill neighborhood: West Middle Elementary School, Thomas J. Quirk Middle School, and Hartford Public High School. Funding focused on sharpening students' reading and math skills, improving school climate and culture, upgrading the schools' technological capabilities, and supporting tutoring programs staffed by hundreds of Hartford employee volunteers. The Hartford estimates that in 2006 more than 250 employees donated nearly 3,000 hours volunteering in support of its partnership schools.

Also in 2006, the company invested \$870,000 in The Hartford's two school-to-career programs: the STAG program and the Alliance for Academic Achievement. STAG is an internship program for low-income Hartford high school students who receive job and life skills training through after-school and summer employment at The Hartford. Since its founding in 1966, 1,600 students have graduated from the program and more than 250 are currently full-time Hartford employees. The Alliance program supports Hartford students during their college years, offering scholarships and summer employment at The Hartford. Since its inception in 1999, more than 115 students have attended college through the program. Company employees serve as mentors to STAG and Alliance participants, offering a head start on the road to success.

For more information on The Hartford's history and future on Asylum Hill, please visit www.thehartford.com/GardenStreetProperty.

The Hartford, a Fortune 100 company, is one of the nation's largest diversified financial services companies, with 2006 revenues of \$26.5 billion. The Hartford is a leading provider of investment products, life insurance and group benefits; automobile and homeowners products; and business property and casualty insurance. International operations are located in Japan, Brazil and the United Kingdom. The Hartford's Internet address is www.thehartford.com.

Some of the statements in this release may be considered forward-looking statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. We caution investors that these forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance, and actual results may differ materially. Investors should consider the important risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ. These important risks and uncertainties include those discussed in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, our 2006 Annual Report on Form 10-K and the other filings we make with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We assume no obligation to update this release, which speaks as of the date issued.

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