

# Montclair's Historic MC Hotel Breaks Ground

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MONTCLAIR, NJ - Montclair's first new hotel since 1938 broke ground on Tuesday. Located on the corner of Bloomfield Avenue and Orange Road, the 151-room luxury boutique MC Hotel is expected to be completed in 18-24 months and will include a rooftop bar, restaurant, 12,000-square-foot conference and event space, as well as a public art atrium and plaza.

A joint collaboration between Pinnacle and Hampshire Companies, along with Circle Square Alternative Investments, brought together elected officials from around Montclair and Essex County to celebrate this effort. Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo and Freeholder Vice-President Brendan Gill were among those present.

Jon F. Hanson, founder and chairman of The Hampshire Real Estate Companies and Brian Stolar, president and CEO of the Pinnacle Companies along with Mayor Jackson and Montclair city council members came together on the empty site, to break ground and celebrate the occasion.

Sean M. Spiller, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Councilor, Township of Montclair thanked everyone for coming to what he called a momentous occasion. He said, "This hotel will allow people to stay in Montclair and enjoy what we have to offer for days and days. This is something that is truly and uniquely Montclair."

Hanson confessed to being around in 1938 but with no recollection of Montclair's old hotel. Hampshire has four projects they hope to do in Montclair. He said, "We have acquired Lackawanna Plaza, a medical office building behind the campus of the hospital, and the Leach building."

Hanson represents the second generation in his family in the real estate business. He pointed out his son and daughter in the audience. He also referenced the Hyatt Regency, which his family developed on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. in 1972. He said, "I look the same way at this project, we have an iconic design, I believe this hotel will be the linchpin of downtown Montclair." He introduced Mayor Robert Jackson, describing him as someone with patience, perseverance and passion.

Jackson said, "This is a historic moment for our township." He described the Marriott Autograph Collection hotel as one that will bring a level of luxury to our community. "Success is never final," he said. "Success will never come until we are all up on that rooftop bar enjoying ourselves, maybe having a beer or two."

The event was held under a tent, and as traffic went by and the wind brought up dust, from a distance, Deputy Mayor Bob Russo was seen excitedly jumping over the wall with a big smile, ready to grab a shovel and break ground.

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