

# Nancy Johnson



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## **Johnson: State Grant a “Huge Victory” for Meriden** *Congresswoman Helps Bring Redevelopment Aid to City*

MERIDEN, CT – Congresswoman Nancy Johnson, Governor M. Jodi Rell and Mayor Mark Benigni today announced the State Bond Commission will approve \$2 million in funds to aid Meriden’s downtown economic development project at a press conference in Meriden.

Congresswoman Johnson personally appealed to Governor Rell over the last few months to place the bond money on the agenda for this Friday’s State Bond Commission meeting. The Commission is expected to approve the \$2 million in bond money during the meeting.

“This is a huge victory for Meriden and its future,” Johnson said. “It takes dedicated teamwork to accomplish our goals, and when federal, state and local officials do our part, wonderful things can happen.”

“I personally brought this project to the Governor’s attention because it is a key to Meriden’s downtown redevelopment plans. It’s a great step forward for Meriden and its efforts to create the thriving economic and cultural downtown center that it deserves. I wish to thank Governor Rell, Mayor Benigni, and state and local leaders for their hard work and commitment,” Johnson added.

Congresswoman Johnson has worked closely with Meriden leaders – including Mayor Benigni and local flood control and economic development officials – to move this project and this funding forward. Earlier this month Johnson announced she had secured \$150,000 in federal funds to kick-start the first stage of the city’s redevelopment plans: demolition of the Hub property.

“I thank Congresswoman Johnson for coming to Meriden’s aid,” Benigni said earlier this month. “She has shown great commitment to helping us accomplish our goals. This funding will help us improve the life and vitality of our downtown.”

Mayor Benigni said the \$2 million will fully fund the demolition of the Hub property and also help pay for clean up costs and the planting of trees and sod at the 15-acre site, according to published reports.

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