



“THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK”  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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### **For Immediate Release**

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## **WHITE PLAINS REACHES FIRST MILESTONE IN PHASING OUT THE USE OF THE DIRTIEST FUEL OILS**

**White Plains, NY – September 6, 2016.** In July 2014 the White Plains Common Council approved legislation phasing out the use of the dirtiest fuel oils in all commercial and residential buildings throughout the City. These oils are commonly referred to as # 6 and # 4 fuel oils and are primarily burned for heat. With the passage of this legislation, White Plains became the first municipality in Westchester County to take this proactive approach.

Fuel oils # 6 and # 4 pose a health risk to those who live in and immediately around the buildings where they are burned and can exacerbate conditions such as asthma. They are bad for the environment, particularly # 6, because when burned they release fine particles that contain high levels of nickel, sulfur and other pollutants into the air. Changing over to a cleaner burning fuel, such as # 2 oil or natural gas also makes economic sense. Conversions have shown a reasonable timetable for return on investment as well as long term fuel cost savings.

The City’s legislation required the phase out of # 6 fuel oil by July 31, 2016 and # 4 by June 30, 2020. The Department of Building has been responsible for overseeing the implementation of the legislation and reached out to property owners identified as # 6 and # 4 users immediately to provide them with a copy of the law as well as information about incentive programs to facilitate the conversion process. The Building Department then followed up with property owners using # 6 fuel oil by phone and letter during the phase out period.

We are pleased to report that all of the twelve # 6 users within the City have complied with the # 6 phase out deadline and have converted to other, cleaner burning fuels. The Building Department will continue to monitor the use of # 4 fuel oil and commence a program to ensure compliance with the phase out of this fuel oil by June 30, 2020.

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