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NEWS RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2009 BID PROCESS BEGINS FOR ASBESTOS ABATEMENT OF MIDTOWN PLAZA

New York State has formally given approval to Empire State Development (ESD) to begin soliciting bids for the estimated \$35 million asbestos and air monitoring contracts for Midtown Plaza. The beginning of the bid process for asbestos abatement represents a significant step in the indoor mall's long and varied history.

"I can't thank Gov. Paterson enough for his continued commitment and dedication to seeing the Midtown Plaza project succeed. The release of these asbestos abatement funds is a major milestone toward making this valuable Center City asset shovel-ready," said Mayor Robert J. Duffy.

Contractors and consultants should go to either of the following Web sites: www.nyscr.org or www.empire.state.ny.us/rfp/default.asp for additional details. Asbestos removal will commence this summer and be completed during the summer of 2010.

A pre-bid conference for abatement will be held on:

- (For Abatement Contractors Only) April 2, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at Midtown Mall
- (For Air Monitoring Consultants Only) April 2, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at Midtown Mall

Bids are due April 14:

- (For Abatement Contractors Only) at 3 p.m. at Midtown Mall (this will be a public bid opening).
- (For Air Monitoring Consultants Only) at 5 p.m. at ESD offices at 400 Andrews St., Rochester, NY.

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News Media: For more information, call Mike Keane at 208-5406 or Katie Krawczyk, Empire State Development, at (716) 846-8247.