

ReZone Syracuse - Updating Land Use Regulations to Spur Improvement & Investment in Our Community

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ABSTRACT

The first zoning ordinance and map of the City of Syracuse was adopted in 1922, at a time when the concept of regulating land use was first introduced in New York State. Although the City's Zoning Ordinance has been updated several times since then, it was typically performed in a piecemeal manner which has created a document that is not easy to use or administer. The current Zoning Ordinance, with its strict separation of land uses, lack of effective design standards and complex administration does not reflect the City's vision.

The ReZone Syracuse project will comprehensively revise and update the City's zoning ordinance and map to guide future land use and development in the City. The goals of the project include ensuring high-quality, attractive design, promoting environmentally sustainable land use patterns, transportation options and site plans, developing provisions for renewable energy infrastructure, and assuring development regulations and review processes are efficient and predictable. This multi-year project is nearing completion and presentation will provide an overview of the project, present our work to date, and describe how the project will be implemented upon completion.

BIOGRAPHY

Owen Kerney currently serves as an Assistant Director in the Syracuse – Onondaga County Planning Agency. He leads the City's Planning Division, which focuses on urban planning and design, historic preservation, public art, and sustainability initiatives to promote and enhance the livability and prosperity of the City of Syracuse. Owen develops and manages planning and capital projects for the City including the City's Comprehensive Plan 2040, the ReZone Syracuse project, the Elevating Erie initiative, Brownfield programs, and multiple State and Federal grant projects. He lives in Syracuse with his wife Melanie and their three children.