

# VERTICAL HARVEST ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR NEW LOCATION IN PHILADELPHIA, PARTNERS WITH TPP CAPITAL FOR THE TIOGA DISTRICT™ DEVELOPMENT

Vertical Harvest, the first company to build and operate a vertical greenhouse farm in the US, is dedicated to jobs for underemployed and underserved populations and enhancing community access to exceptional farm fresh foods year-round using less land, water and fuel

Jackson Hole, WY (February 18, 2021) – <u>Vertical Harvest</u>, the first vertical greenhouse in the United States, announced today they will bring their third location – Vertical Harvest Philly – to Philadelphia, PA. The project is directly partnered with The Tioga District<sup>™</sup> development - a federal qualified opportunity zone, food, health and wellness desert in Upper North Philadelphia. Located adjacent to the Temple University Health Sciences Campus and Temple University Hospital, the Vertical Harvest greenhouse will be part of the Tioga District Preventative Health Hub<sup>™</sup> a 168,000-sq-foot state-of-the-art replicable hub and national model for healthcare, health and wellness with social impact.

TPP Capital Holdings (<u>TPP</u>), a Philadelphia based Black-led social impact private equity fund manager and urban healthcare real estate development firm is the co-developer on the Tioga District's<sup>™</sup> Vertical Harvest Philly project in Upper North Philadelphia along with Greg Day, principal and manager of <u>TDB</u>, <u>LLC</u> the firm leading the development of the second location for Vertical Harvest in Westbrook, Maine. TPP's principals Anthony B. Miles and Clinton Bush are co-architects of the Tioga District Preventative Health Hub<sup>™</sup>.

Since 2016, Vertical Harvest has perfected the urban farm model through its current operation in Jackson Hole, WY. In 2020, the company launched a bold plan to co-locate vertical farms with affordable housing in underserved communities across the nation. The team will build 10 vertical greenhouse farms in the next five years to help eliminate food and job insecurity while cultivating healthy people, communities and economies. In 2022, the company's second location in Westbrook, Maine location will open. The Westbrook, Maine location represents the company's first vertical greenhouse that is co-located with affordable housing and will serve as a replicable model for future Vertical Harvest sites.

Co-founder of Vertical Harvest Nona Yehia stated, "I have always believed that architecture can be a powerful means for social change. At Vertical Harvest, we have reimagined the farm itself —



Pictured: Vertical Harvest Westbrook will open in 2022 [architect rendering]

creating a vertical, glass greenhouse structure that becomes a beautiful and meaningful part of the community. We've also reimagined food systems and the jobs they create to make them more nourishing, resilient, and sustainable. We are a company full of "unexpected farmers" who are motivated and driven by how much impact we can make in a community. Partnering with Anthony, Clinton, and the other visionaries at TPP, we hope to facilitate change in underserved neighborhoods and address systemic inequities. These are the type of developments that are in complete lock-step with our mission at Vertical Harvest."

Vertical farming is the fastest growing industry in agriculture, presenting an opportunity to grow large quantities of affordable, nutritious food on small, urban footprints. Vertical Harvest has a company mission to grow both food and futures. The company pairs innovative growing technologies of vertical farming with jobs for the underemployed and underserved populations in what has been proven in Jackson to be a successful model

for uplifting local economies, providing fresh nutritious produce to schools, hospitals, restaurants, markets and consumers, and embodies a commitment to civic participation, health and the environment.

Using the Westbrook, Maine model for replication in Philadelphia, Vertical Harvest plans for an approximate 70,000 sq-ft vertical greenhouse and anticipates bringing 50 full-time equivalent jobs to the Upper North Philadelphia neighborhood of Tioga.



Pictured: New employees get an orientation tour at Vertical Harvest Jackson Hole (L); two employees harvest produce in the greenhouse (R).

TPP Capital Holdings Co-founder and Principal, Clinton Bush commented, "We are excited about our partnership with Vertical Harvest to co-develop Vertical Harvest Philly as part of our Tioga District Preventative Health Hub™ in Upper North Philadelphia. This partnership will combine our collective expertise in farming, food innovation science, and savvy business knowledge to address food insecurities in Black and Brown communities nationally that are typically classified as food, health and wellness deserts in federal opportunity zones. With Vertical Harvest Philly, we will be able to deliver nutrient-dense fresh produce from farm to fork in 24 hours."

Vertical Harvest Philly will initially grow a variety of microgreens and lettuces. It is estimated this vertical farm will produce one million pounds of produce per year. In addition to wholesale partnerships with hospitals, corporate cafeterias, schools, chefs, restaurants, caterers and more, the Tioga District<sup>™</sup> location will also have a consumer marketplace.



Pictured L to R: A variety of microgreens and lettuces grown in the Vertical Harvest flagship, Jackson Hole, are packaged for consumers and wholesale.

For more information please follow @verticalharvestfarms on Instagram, Facebook, and visit www.verticalharvestfarms.com

#### About Vertical Harvest:

Vertical Harvest is a vertical farm that provides consistent, meaningful employment for people with intellectual and physical disabilities by cultivating nutritious food for the community. The Vertical Harvest company impact is much larger, joining private investment, public resources and philanthropy as a model to create positive economic and social impact for communities. Vertical Harvest's focus is to create partnerships to build cost effective, profitable hydroponic farms that will not only act as innovative urban models for growing fresh food, but will have a substantial social impact. The first of these is a state-of-the-art, three-story hydroponic farm in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The second location will be in Westbrook, Maine. In 2020, a documentary on Vertical Harvest was released on PBS called Hearts of Glass: https://www.heartsofglassfilm.com/

## About TPP Capital

TPP Capital Holdings (TPP) is a Philadelphia-based, Black-led social impact private equity fund manager and healthcare real estate development firm on a mission to change the face of Black health by investing in and transforming as many as five urban blighted and underserved black neighborhoods into integrated and scalable compact, dense and community health, and wellness-centric focused districts over the next 10 years.

TPP's principals Anthony B. Miles and Clinton Bush are co-architects of the Tioga District Preventative Health Hub<sup>™</sup> a 168,000-sf state-of-the-art replicable hub and National Model for Healthcare, Health and Wellness with Social Impact and Measurement within Black and Brown urban neighborhoods in federal qualified opportunity zones throughout the country. TPP makes investments of \$100MM to \$300MM in each neighborhood.

## About vertical farming:

Vertical farming is an industry that can work to supplement traditional agriculture by developing controlled indoor growing environments that save space, water and energy use. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that by 2050 the human population will increase by 3 billion people demanding a 70% increase in agricultural production. Globally, over 80% of arable land is in use. At the same time, food deserts, where affordable and healthy food is difficult to obtain, are becoming more common in urban neighborhoods. Hydroponic agriculture uses a fraction of the water and energy of field agriculture.

#### About Tioga District™

The Tioga District<sup>™</sup> will be built in a federal qualified opportunity zone, food, health and wellness desert in Upper North Philadelphia, Pennsylvania's distressed neighborhood of Tioga with 85.5% black population, 45% high blood pressure, 43.3% obesity, 19.3% diabetes, 42% of people in poverty, \$17,052 median household income and 18% unemployment rate. The District<sup>™</sup> is adjacent to Temple University Health Sciences Campus and Temple University Hospital. As planned, the project beginning construction in the 1st Qtr. of 2021 will add to the neighborhood, all within a five-city square block area, 1,407 residential units for rent or sale, 142,000 square foot preventative health hub, 172,870 square foot of commercial/office, 107,000 square foot of retail space and 92,392 square feet of pedestrian, streetscape and storm water improvements.

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