



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Keystone Group Shares Updates on Former Site of Diamond Chain

INDIANAPOLIS, IN, [May 22, 2024] - Keystone Group today announced the completion of phase one of construction at the former site of Diamond Chain in downtown Indianapolis. Working in close and constant coordination, expert teams from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Department of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (IDNR/DHPA), Weintraut and Associates, and Indiana University Professor of Anthropology Jeremy Wilson, have successfully excavated approximately 6 acres of the site in preparation for redevelopment.

During this process, the team of experts discovered 87 burials across 6 acres. All excavation procedures used during this phase were approved by the IDNR/DHPA. As soon as a burial was encountered, it was hand excavated with shovels and then trowels and brushes. Great care was taken to excavate and document the discoveries. Per Indiana law and Keystone's approved archeological monitoring plan, when human remains were discovered, mechanical excavation within a 100-foot radius of the discovery paused. The archaeologists then cleared the area, isolated the discovery, and performed controlled excavations.

"Monitoring of demolition at the site was carried out with due diligence and a focus on respect and privacy for any findings," said Linda Weintraut Ph.D., Owner, Weintraut and Associates. "As planned, Keystone and its experts are updating the community. Excavation has concluded and we are engaged with the final analysis using scientific archaeological methodologies."

All discoveries are now being analyzed and catalogued, and Keystone Group presented a reinterment plan to the IDNR/DHPA for review and approval.

After careful consideration and conversations with community leaders, Keystone Group has selected Mount Jackson Cemetery as the location for reinterment and memorialization, ensuring utmost respect and dignity for the findings. Mount Jackson Cemetery, maintained by the Wayne Township Trustee's Office, is just west of the site and rich in Indianapolis history.



“Keystone Group selected Mount Jackson Cemetery due to its proximity to the former site of Diamond Chain, its historical relevance, and the opportunity to help us revitalize this historic cemetery,” said Wayne Township Communications Director Jeff Harris. “Keystone Group’s ongoing commitment to responsible community development has been evident in this partnership. We look forward to working together to appropriately memorialize what is found at the former Diamond Chain site, and, at the same time, with Keystone’s contributions, make significant improvements to Mount Jackson Cemetery.”

A website is in development for community members interested in learning more about the complex history of the Diamond Chain site. That site, which will launch within days, is a platform to update, educate, and collaborate with the community. The platform will provide access to expert insights and encourage community input to ensure the memorialization on the current site and at Mount Jackson capture the history and honor the dignity deserved by those reinterred for the first time in over a century.

“As we move forward with this transformational riverfront development it has always been our steadfast commitment to correct past mishandlings by previous ownership, with dignified and respectful reinterment and memorialization,” said Jennifer Pavlik, Chief of Staff and Senior Vice President, Keystone Group. She added, "Keystone Group is ready to build and will continue our coordinated efforts with our expert consultants and the IDNR/DHPA on the remaining acreage.

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