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For Immediate Release

Syracuse, NY – Catholic Charities of Onondaga County will hold meetings so that community members can discuss the proposed Housing Services Center, which includes an emergency shelter, at 501 West Genesee Street. We welcome feedback and comment.

Four meetings will be held to provide access to as many stakeholders as possible (due to COVID-19, there will be a maximum of 30 attendees per meeting). Three meetings will be held at Missio Church at 620 W. Genesee Street: Monday, October 19 at 9:00AM, Tuesday, October 20 at 6:00PM, and Saturday, October 24 at 12:00PM. One virtual meeting will take place on Thursday, October 22 at 12:00PM.

Catholic Charities is aware of community members' concerns and understands that it is critical to get feedback from the community at this early stage of the project so that adjustments in design and services can be considered.

Mike Melara, Executive Director of Catholic Charities, commented, "We are working closely with the City and the County to secure a location that can offer an array of services to address the needs of this population in a positive and successful way. We recognize the community's concerns and pledge to work hard to address these concerns and be a good neighbor. At the same time, we all need to recognize that these individuals are our neighbors, too."

Catholic Charities encourages community members to attend a meeting and provide feedback. Registration is required. Please register at www.eventbrite.com/o/catholic-charities-of-onondaga-county-31408842563, or by calling 315-362-7698.

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Catholic Charities of Onondaga County is a human service nonprofit that works to reduce poverty in Onondaga County by serving those most in need. Programs include a shelter for men, food pantries, refugee services, elderly services, supportive housing, parenting classes, programs for children and youth, and more. The agency assists nearly 17,000 people annually and serves anyone in need regardless of religion, ethnicity or nationality.