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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **ILDC announces sugar refinery expansion on former Bethlehem Steel site**

*Sugar refiner Sucro Limited and the Industrial Land Development Corporation finalize purchase agreement for 9.98-acre adjacent parcel for expansion, adding 25 jobs*

**Buffalo, NY**—The Buffalo and Erie County Industrial Land Development Corporation (ILDC) and sugar refiner Sucro Limited announce the finalization of a purchase agreement for an additional adjacent 9.98 acres at Renaissance Commerce Park (RCP), to make room for Sucro’s new 126,000 square foot warehouse and distribution facility. Sucro currently occupies a 12.31-acre footprint at the Renaissance Commerce Park site.

“Sucro Limited’s expansion at Renaissance Commerce Park is exactly the type of economic development we envisioned when Erie County and our partners first set our sights on redeveloping the Bethlehem Steel property over ten years ago,” **said Erie County Executive and ILDC Board Chair Mark C. Poloncarz**. ILDC is the land development arm of the Erie County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA).

“An international company saw the tremendous opportunity at RCP, set up shop, succeeded, and is now expanding! Our investments continue to pay off, and I look forward to many more years of growth for Sucro Limited and our other RCP business partners,” **Poloncarz said**.

Sucro purchased the adjacent acreage at \$55,000 per acre, and ILDC continues work on expanding sewer and water infrastructure to accommodate Sucro’s high-volume, international sugar processing operations. The Miami-based company, which provides granular and liquid sugar for global and regional food and beverage manufacturers, has operations and offices throughout the Americas and Canada.

“We are delighted to announce this latest phase in Sucro’s continued growth in our U.S. sugar refinery operations,” **said Jonathan Taylor, Founder & CEO of Sucro Limited**. “The Lackawanna area’s exceptional logistics capabilities, including sea, rail and truck transportation, play a key role in our entire North American operations. Our new storage and distribution investment at the site will create a critical hub for our three sugar refineries, including current and proposed, and Sucro’s rapidly growing customer base.”

**ECIDA/ILDC President and CEO John Cappellino said**, “Renaissance Commerce Park continues to be one of our greatest success stories. We congratulate Sucro on their expansion, and the addition of 25 jobs to their current operations in Lackawanna.”

Since 2012, Erie County and the ILDC have led a group including the City of Lackawanna, the ECIDA, site owner Tecumseh Steel, National Grid, the Department of Environmental Conservation, Empire State Development and many other community stakeholders to acquire and develop 148 acres along Route 5 into what is now Renaissance Commerce Park. ILDC has since acquired an additional 60 acres for planned expansion, and light manufacturing and warehouse/distribution businesses and developers continue to express high interest in building at Renaissance Commerce Park.

**Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Hope Knight said**, “New York State’s previous investment in Sucro Limited is paying off with the continued growth of the company and the addition of 25 new jobs. The sugar refinery is just one example of how the former Bethlehem Steel site is being reimagined for businesses looking to grow and create long-term jobs and opportunity.”

“Sucro Limited’s decision to further expand its already expansive Lackawanna sugar facility is a positive reflection on the world-class development resources available to companies locating and growing within Renaissance Commerce Park,” **said Lackawanna Mayor Annette Iafallo**. “It’s also a testament to the strong partnership efforts between Erie County, the City of Lackawanna and other partners to secure economic development investments which create new and sustainable sources of revenues, jobs and community activity for Lackawanna and Erie County.”

The ILDC is currently in the process of relocating a railyard on the southern parcels, which will allow further development and enable ILDC to extend the Shoreline Path Bike Trail along Route 5 southward to Woodlawn Beach. The rail amenities, along with port and highway access, industrial zoning and large parcels on the site make RCP an ideal location for light manufacturing and warehouse/distribution businesses.

Sucro is expected to close on the parcels later this year.

*The Erie County Industrial Development Agency is a public benefit corporation sanctioned by the State of New York to offer tax incentives to qualified businesses, and is dedicated to furthering economic development, adaptive reuse of qualified properties, job creation and ensuring a thriving business environment in Erie County. The staff of the ECIDA are not employees of the City of Buffalo, the County of Erie, or the State of New York. The ECIDA does not receive operating funds from taxpayer revenues. The ECIDA receives its operating funds by collecting fees from businesses that enter into contracts with the Agency, from investments, and from loan fees.*

*The Industrial Land Development Corporation, or ILDC, is the land development services and bond issuance arm of the ECIDA. The ILDC is overseen by a separate Board of Directors, Chaired by Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz. For more information on the former Bethlehem Steel site redevelopment, visit [www.ecidany.com/rcp](http://www.ecidany.com/rcp).*

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