

August 30, 2021, Lohud reports the following:

“Westchester County Executive George Latimer has thrown his support behind a controversial Mount Vernon construction project three months after receiving a large donation from the developer.

With a \$10,000 gift in May, Mark Stagg, of the Stagg Group, has placed himself among Latimer's top contributors; only a handful of donors this year have given as much or more.”

<https://www.lohud.com/story/news/local/westchester/mount-vernon/2021/08/30/westchester-county-executive-george-latimer-supported-project-after-donation-by-stagg-group/5604325001/>

I questioned the entanglement between Westchester County and Stagg in a post to <https://mountvernoncitizen.org/blog> earlier this month. Below is a picture showing George Latimer and Mark Stagg (among others) at a June 2021 ribbon cutting for the recently completed New Rochelle Family Court, which Stagg developed in partnership with Westchester County. Source: <https://www.westchestergov.com/home/all-press-releases/8967-new-rochelle-county-family-court-grand-opening>



The Lohud article points out that the land in question is “nestled inside” Willson’s Woods Park, which is a Westchester County Park. Westchester County had the opportunity to purchase this land and unify the park before Stagg Group purchased it in 2019. Stagg wants to develop the land into a corporate headquarters. City residents – most vocally those who live adjacent to the park- reject this idea.

It seems quite plausible that Latimer’s allegiance to Stagg is stronger than his allegiance to the residents of Mount Vernon, and that this allegiance is influencing land use decisions made by elected and appointed officials.

How this plays out will factor into my decision-making when Latimer seeks re-election.