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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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62 businesses in downtown Morristown awarded three (3) months of rent

Morristown, NJ – OCTOBER 30, 2020. In keeping with its mission to support the Morristown downtown business community, the **Morristown Partnership** (“Partnership”) is pleased to announce the culmination of the **Morristown Partnership Commercial Rent Relief Grant Program** (“Grant Program”). Under the leadership of Jennifer Wehring, executive director of the Partnership, a total of \$679,672.00 was raised.

“We are beyond grateful to have partnered with a generous anonymous benefactor, who values Morristown and the businesses that make the community so special, to create this Grant Program. Once developed, we were able to procure additional donors and with their added support the Partnership now has the honor of distributing grant awards to 62 business applicants – all that applied – in downtown Morristown,” said Wehring.

In addition to the initial benefactor, donors contributing to the Grant Program also include the **Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation**, **Joe and Jeanne Goryeb**, the **F.M. Kirby Foundation**, **The Ranger Family** and **Kim and Finn Wentworth**. The significance of their generosity is palpable and will not only benefit the businesses receiving awards, but also the residents, surrounding communities and visitors to the downtown.

Applications for the three (3) month rent relief were accepted over the course of 2 weeks beginning in late September, and at the conclusion all applicants were entered into a random lottery system to ensure fair and transparent selection of grant award recipients. Only businesses selected via lottery were to receive grant awards to be used exclusively for three (3) months of rent, not to exceed \$20,000 total, commencing November 2020 and concluding January 2021. While the lottery did go forward as intended, the success of the Partnership’s fundraising efforts allowed for all 62 business applicants that applied to receive awards.

Of note, a mandatory requirement of the application was the participation of the businesses’ property owners; awards were contingent upon their commitment to reduce their tenants rent by 20% for those months. Payment of grant awards, in one lump sum paid directly to the property owners, is underway.

“The Partnership is here to support the business community and thrives on collaboration with individuals, organizations and fellow non-profits in the Morristown community. We encourage long standing and new businesses, as well as those looking to open in Morristown, to utilize our services and communicate their needs so we can continue to make an impact on the community,” Wehring concluded.

A complete list of businesses receiving awards via the Grant Program is available via the Morristown Partnership website at morristown-nj.org/grants. For additional information, please contact the Morristown Partnership via email to grants@morristown-nj.org or call (973) 455-1133.

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***Morristown Partnership** is a Special Improvement District (SID) created in 1994, designated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. It supports Morristown’s vibrant business district by developing private/public partnerships among business, government, civic and community members. It is self-funded partly through special assessments on commercial properties located in the SID, foundation and/or government grants, promotional participation, sponsorships for community events and financial & in-kind donations.*

The Morristown Partnership consists of more than 400 commercial properties and 1,000+ businesses physically located in the SID. If you would like more information on the Morristown Partnership, please visit the website at www.morristown-nj.org or call at (973) 455-1133 for business opportunities, as well as commercial space for lease and sale, in downtown Morristown.

Follow the Morristown Partnership on Instagram @downtownmorristown and Facebook @MorristownPartnership throughout the year for developing news related to special promotions, new businesses and information on all we do including: Morristown Partnership Gift Certificate Program, Morristown Restaurant Week, Meet Me in Morristown, Morristown Farmers Market, Morristown Festival on the Green, Halloween Trick-or-Treat and our month-long Christmas Festival at the Morristown Green.