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■ HOBOKEN

Hail Park Place project for sustainability, union jobs

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HOBOKEN — Elected, union, and building trade officials who gathered yesterday for the groundbreaking ceremony at the \$131 million, 12-story Park Place residential development praised the project for its environmentally friendly design and use of 100 percent union labor.

The development at 1415 Park Ave. — site of a former parking garage — is expected to include 212 apartments, retail space, a charter school, and a robotic parking garage. It should be completed in early 2015, officials said.

Larry Bijou, managing partner of Bijou Properties, who is building the complex with Tishman Construction and with funding from the AFL-CIO Building Investment Trust, said

the development represents the “next generation” of sustainable development.

Bijou listed a number of “green” features to be incorporated into the building, including a gas-powered generator that allows the building to operate independently from the PSE&G grid, solar panels to generate electricity for elevators and common area lights, planted green roofs to reduce storm water runoff, non-toxic paint and insulation, and low-flow fixtures for water conservation.

Even the rubble left from the demolition of the garage that previously occupied the site will be put through a crusher and reused for concrete, Bijou said.

“I think it’s a great design as we go through the green process, recycling and reusing as much as we can,” Mayor

Dawn Zimmer said. “The design is great for the residents and great for the community.”

Although a spokesman for the developer said that no decision had been made about what school would occupy the space, Zimmer gave a plug for it to become the new home for Elysian Charter School, saying parents of the school turned out to back the project when it was before the Zoning Board.

The project will occupy two-thirds of a block, and is expected to create 655 union construction jobs.

“This building shows the interests of labor and the community are one and the same — to uplift families and move our economy forward,” said New Jersey AFL-CIO President Charles Wowkanech.

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