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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RAL, NYCEDC & LOCAL COMMUNITY CELEBRATE TOPPING OUT OF ZERO IRVING, UNION SQUARE DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING CENTER**

**(New York, NY – September 8, 2020)** – RAL Development Services announced the official topping out of Zero Irving, a new 21-story Class-A office building that will house the Union Square Digital Skills Training Center. Zero Irving will create a multi-level ecosystem designed to grow the next generation of companies, industries, and tech workers. In a ceremony held on September 3, in accordance with COVID-19 safety measures, RAL was joined by New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), local officials, and members of the community to mark the occasion.

“We are excited to celebrate a major milestone for one of the most promising new developments in the city,” said Spencer Levine, President of RAL Development Services. “We are confident this uniquely transformative public-private project will be an engine of opportunity and prosperity for New Yorkers and the local community. We are proud to be working with the city’s administration, Community Board 3, Councilwoman Carlina Rivera, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, and EDC to deliver a project that benefits the local community and all of New York City.”

The 240,000-square-foot building will include flexible office space, a state-of-the-art event space, a fitness center, and 176,000 square feet of thoughtfully amenitized, newly constructed Class A office space across 14 floors at the top of the trophy quality mixed-use development. Zero Irving’s Digital Skills Training Center space will create permanent jobs and prepare New Yorkers to enter one of the city’s fastest-growing business sectors.

Steps away from Union Square, the Digital Skills Training Center at Zero Irving is designed to help diversify New York City’s tech sector and serve as a hub for the city’s growing tech economy. NYCEDC anticipates the center will create over 550 permanent jobs and also serve as a pathway to good-paying jobs for communities around the Union Square area and across the city. Zero Irving will incorporate a collaborative accelerator/incubator and co-working center that will focus on advancing innovation, clean tech, smart cities, and digital government services as well as advance creative businesses and further empower local businesses. In addition, the Digital Skills Training Center will provide technology classes that teach in-demand skills that employers are seeking.

“Milestone moments like these reinforce that New York City is and always will be a hub for talent and innovators to call home,” said **Rachel Loeb, Chief Operating Officer of New York City Economic Development Corporation**. “This project not only builds on the City’s tech ecosystem, it creates pathways to good-paying jobs for New Yorkers. As the City looks towards

the future and the economic recovery that lies ahead, investments like these will build a stronger future for us all. We are thrilled to have played a role bringing the community's vision to life."

RAL Development Services previously announced the leasing of 10,000 square feet of space at the ground floor for Urbanspace who will operate a new food hall at Zero Irving. The company plans an innovative mixed online/offline platform that will provide enhanced online ordering with delivery and pickup options for building tenants and the local community.

Located at 124 East 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Zero Irving will be in a unique position to offer flexibility and adaptability as New York continues to navigate the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. Its proximity to the Union Square transit hub will allow for tenants to attract and retain their workforce. Furthermore, as newly constructed space, Zero Irving will benefit from several outdoor amenity spaces as well as touchless access from street to desk and private, customizable HVAC systems. These features enable tenants to realize their visions of healthy and safe spaces during and post pandemic.

The building embraces the latest in sustainable design and green building technology. Zero Irving is engineered to comply with both WiredScore Platinum and LEED Gold Certifications, providing the Digital Skills Training Center and all tenants with best-in-class connectivity through a design that is sustainable and respectful of the environment. Additionally, the building is being constructed using Suffolk's innovative Plan and Control process that increases predictability during construction and helps to drive down material waste and delays.

"Davis Brody Bond has been thrilled to be part of the Zero Irving project with RAL, the EDC, and Suffolk since its inception, and we are extremely proud of our own design team, whose efforts have added a new creative energy to the vibrancy of the Union Square district," said Partner-in-Charge Christopher Grabé. "We are sure this new transparent and technologically advanced building will have a lasting impact as part of the built fabric of New York City and on the community it serves."

The team behind Zero Irving is also comprised by financial partner Junius Real Estate Partners, architecture firm Davis Brody Bond, and construction manager Suffolk.

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### **About RAL Development Services**

RAL Development Services LLC (RAL), <http://ralcompanies.com/>, is a real estate development firm with a three-generation, 38-year track record of success in building complex, high-profile projects nationally and internationally. RAL's multidisciplinary in-house expertise includes predevelopment and approvals, urban planning, architecture and design, finance, construction management, landscape architecture, marketing and leasing, and property management. RAL operates both as a principal owner/developer and as an owner's representative, bringing its expertise to residential, commercial, mixed-use, planned communities, Resorts and hospitality, and other property types. RAL prides itself on its dedication to the communities it works with, creating strong and lasting relationships with local constituencies wherever they build, as well as employing union labor and collaborating with MWBE contractors when possible. RAL uses and believes in cutting-edge processes and technologies, but never substitutes them for the experience, ingenuity, creativity, passion, leadership, and professional judgment provided by its people.

## **About NYCEDC**

New York City Economic Development Corporation is a mission-driven, non-profit organization that creates shared prosperity across New York City by strengthening neighborhoods and growing good jobs. NYCEDC works with and for communities to provide them with the resources they need to thrive, and invests in projects that increase sustainability, support job growth, develop talent, and spark innovation to strengthen the City's competitive advantage. To learn more about our work and initiatives, please visit us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.