



For Immediate Release

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City Officials and Orange Housing Authority Seek Community Input to Improve Neighborhoods

ORANGE – February 11, 2015 – Orange officials, in concert with the Orange Housing Authority, hosted a public workshop Tuesday, February 10 at the Walter Alexander Community Center to discuss proposed changes to the Central Orange Redevelopment Plan (CORP).

The project would include 22 tax blocks surrounding the Tony Galento Plaza, Orange Memorial Hospital, Orange Train Station, Walter Alexander Village, and Lincoln Avenue Elementary School.

“This is a tremendous joint effort by the City of Orange, the Orange Housing Authority and the community at-large to improve our town,” said Dr. Walter D. McNeil, Jr., Executive Director for the Orange Housing Authority. “Our collective efforts will help ensure that future generations have quality, affordable places to live in the City of Orange.”

Urban planners from the Nishuane Group, members of the City Council and commissioners of the Orange Housing Authority were present to answer inquiries and gather important feedback. Urban planners presented scenarios in which residents were asked to identify redevelopment priorities. The majority of participants identified housing, parking and open space as main necessities.

A resident at the Walter Alexander Village explained her experience at the interactive workshop.

“I was glad that I was able to participate in the workshop,” said Theresa John. “There’s no better group of individuals to seek recommendations for this city than the residents themselves.”

The Walter Alexander Village is one of the many redevelopment projects that has transformed the landscape of the east ward. The new public housing facility replaced an old, decrepit complex built in the 1950s.

Today, the 3.8-acre site bounded by Central Place, Parrow Street, Wilson Place and Oakwood Avenue is now an attractive, modern, safe home for seniors, families and individuals from the community.

The City of Orange is planning more interactive workshops with hope of obtaining as much input community insight as possible, as the proposed redevelopment amendment takes shape.

For more information on future meetings, please visit the event page at www.haconj.org.

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