

Orange Housing Authority Phyllis Greer 973.677.4557

Housing Authority Celebrates Demolition to Make Way for New Development

Orange, New Jersey – Orange Housing Authority (OHA) has announced that it will demolish five vacant and abandoned properties as the first stage of construction for the expansion project of Walter G. Alexander development.

The vacant and abandoned properties finally will be demolished on Thursday, August 10 at 10:00 a.m. located at 180-182 Central Place between Wilson Place and Central Avenue. These properties have been an eyesore to the community due to the constant threat of fire, illegal drug use and squatters creating damage to properties.

Councilwoman Adrienne Wooten of Orange, in collaboration with OHA are actively addressing the issue of what to do with abandoned and vacant properties that result from situations ranging from fires to foreclosures.

"It's rewarding to see this long awaited project move forward," said OHA Executive Director, Dr. Walter McNeil, Jr. "We will continue our efforts to work endlessly to decrease blighted properties and redevelop."

This is another significant step for the Housing Authority's Redevelopment Plan in Orange's east ward as this demolition will make way for an additional 44 – workforce units, which is scheduled to break ground later this year.

In just a few short years, the Housing Authority has made impressive progress. To date, the Housing Authority has invested over \$50M with the constructions of Dr. Walter G. Alexander Village, Phases I, II and III as well as the Oakwood Avenue Development.

Regarding a timeline for the project, McNeil said the tax credits application has been completed and we hope to hear from the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA) by late August.

The Dr. Walter G. Alexander Village was a public housing complex built in 1952. It has since been demolished, replaced with attractive, modern, low-rise construction. The "new" Dr. Walter G. Alexander development is the city's largest expansion of workforce housing. Located between Parrow Street and Wilson Place, the new construction has come to symbolize tremendous turnaround and investment in the city's East Ward.







