



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Orange Housing Authority  
Phyllis Greer 908.468.1885

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## **Orange Housing Making Affordable Housing More Accessible**

**Orange, New Jersey** – September 6, 2016 – The Orange Housing Authority, in partnership with The Alpert Group, continues to create more housing opportunities for residents in the City of Orange after announcing the completion and grand opening of its Walter G. Alexander Village, Phase III; a new 42-unit tax credit development in Orange for workforce housing.

Located on Parrow Street adjacent to the Oakwood Avenue Elementary School and the second building, located on Wilson Place, the ribbon cutting was attended by many local, state and federal officials. These officials included: U.S. Congressman Donald M. Payne, Jr., Assemblyman Tom Giblin and Assemblywoman Shelia Oliver.

The new development is supported by a \$7.4 million tax credit award from the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA) and \$3.5 million from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Sandy Disaster Recovery funds.

“It is a continued effort to provide affordable housing,” said Dr. Walter D. McNeil, the Orange Housing Authority’s Executive Director. “The number of applications we have received for Phase III – a development of only 42-units – highly suggests that there is a critical need for more workforce housing in Orange. With the support of the city, we will continue to acquire and demolish blighted properties and redevelop scattered sites throughout the city’s East Ward.”

A continuation of the current Dr. Walter G. Alexander Village, Phases I & II, the development is part of OHA’s promise to be a cornerstone development for the ongoing revitalization efforts in new economic development, housing, and quality of life improvements on the East Ward.

“Orange, you are at the forefront,” said, Assemblywoman Sheila Oliver, who represents Orange and who was amongst those who attended. “When I think about urban cores all across New Jersey, I don’t think there is a Housing Authority of this size who have developed as much and as many units as the Township of Orange.”



The 54,300-square-foot project will comprise a 16-unit, three-story building on Parrow Street and 26-unit, four-story building on Wilson Place, as well as a shared 4,500-square-foot community room.

“I am glad to see some of my efforts in the fights that we had in Washington – and they were difficult around Sandy dollars – have come to fruition and come into fruition in my district. It warms my heart to know that the fight was not in vain and this is the result of some of those dollars,” said, Congressman Donald M. Payne, Jr.

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.



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