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REACH CDC Receives \$1.7 Million to Preserve 64 Homes

In rapidly gentrifying NE Portland, affordability will be maintained for senior citizens

Portland, OR – September 16, 2014 — Today REACH CDC announced an award of \$1.7 million from the City of Portland's Bureau of Housing to acquire and preserve the 64 unit Allen-Fremont Plaza, located in the heart of NE Portland's Boise neighborhood, a building serving primarily very-low income African American senior citizens.

Originally built in 1997 by GBC Inc. (GBC), an affiliate of the General Baptist Convention of the Northwest, an association of historically African-American churches located throughout the Pacific Northwest, Allen-Fremont Plaza was developed to provide affordable housing options for seniors in an historically African-American neighborhood. GBC initiated discussions with REACH two years ago about its desire to sell the building to a strong affordable housing developer to sustain GBC's long-term vision for a community that is both affordable and prevents displacement of long-term neighborhood residents. With the City's support, REACH will purchase the building while honoring GBC's original commitment to an affordable rent structure. Currently, a majority of residents are African-American seniors living on incomes of less than 30% of Median Family Income, or approximately \$14,600 annually.

Inner N/NE Portland has undergone rapid gentrification and upscale development over the past several years, forcing out many long-term residents who cannot afford sudden, dramatic rent hikes. Allen Fremont Plaza is located in an area experiencing particularly swift redevelopment, displacing seniors and low income residents from their homes. With this award, REACH will purchase the building in early 2015 and perform approximately \$500,000 of renovations, consisting primarily of energy efficiency upgrades; new roofing; interior unit upgrades; and exterior paint. Renovations are expected to take approximately six months. Rents for the 1-bedroom apartments will range from \$460-\$550/month.

In March of this year, Mayor Charlie Hales announced plans to spend \$20 million in the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area. "This historically African-American sector of our city needs jobs," Hales said in a statement. "It needs economic opportunity. And it needs affordable housing. And working together, the community leaders and I are committed to this future." This award, along with several others made by the City, are assisting the City in meeting this objective.



“REACH and GBC are pleased to partner on this project and support our mutual goal of preserving affordable housing in Portland,” says CEO Dan Valliere. “GBC took bold action in originally building the Allen Fremont Plaza. Now the City, along with GBC Inc. and REACH, are furthering broader preservation efforts to create long-term opportunities for lower-income residents and help them remain living in their homes in N/NE Portland.”

About REACH CDC

For 32 years, REACH has built innovative and affordable housing for low-income families and individuals in the Portland metropolitan region. In 2013, REACH acquired Affordable Community Environments as a subsidiary corporation. REACH develops and manages affordable housing and provides supportive services to residents, as well as free home repairs to senior homeowners. Today, REACH’s portfolio includes 1,956 units including single family homes, apartment buildings, and mixed-use developments located across Multnomah, Washington and Clark counties. REACH has won numerous state and national awards for its creative approach to building healthy communities and its innovative housing projects. More information at <http://reachcdc.org>.