



**LUKE RAVENSTAHL
MAYOR, CITY OF PITTSBURGH**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Gigi Saladna
Chief Information Officer
412-255-6434
gsaladna@ura.org

Joanna Doven
Press Secretary
Mayor's Office
412-255-2694
Joanna.doven@city.pittsburgh.pa.us

MAYOR, URA MOVE NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FORWARD

(PITTSBURGH) March 10 Mayor Luke Ravenstahl today announced that numerous development projects in the City's neighborhoods will be moving forward, thanks to approvals granted by the Urban Redevelopment Authority Board of Directors at their monthly board meeting held today at 2 p.m. Highlighted projects approved by the board include Liberty Park, a new rental housing development in East Liberty; the selling of land to allow for development of the Hill District Grocery store; and Dinwiddie Street Housing, a new rental housing development in the Hill District.

Liberty Park

Liberty Park Phase II is the construction of 71 new rental housing units along Collins and East Liberty Boulevard in the East Liberty neighborhood of the City of Pittsburgh.

"All residents should have access to safe and affordable housing opportunities," said Mayor Ravenstahl. "Liberty Park offers the chance for residents who were temporarily relocated to return to their neighborhood of East Liberty, and enjoy new, modern conveniences."

Authorization was granted to hire A. Liberoni Inc. for the public improvement work associated with Phase II of the former Liberty Park site for a fee of \$523,053.15. SAI Consulting Engineers, Inc. will provide construction management services for \$110,000. Public improvements include the extension and connection of Kalida Drive and Princeton Place, new utilities (water line, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and water and sewer services) and street lighting.

Developers are McCormack Baron Salazar in collaboration with East Liberty Development, Inc. Construction of the buildings is expected to start in late spring 2011.

Phase I consisted of 124 mixed income rental units and is completed and fully occupied. A percentage of these units are occupied by residents who were relocated as a result of the closures of the East Liberty high-rises.

Hill District Grocery Store

Authorization was granted today for the sale of the land for the development of Centre Heldman Plaza for \$275,800, which includes a full service Shop-N-Save grocery store along Centre Avenue in the Hill District neighborhood of the City of Pittsburgh.

"The residents of the Hill District have been waiting for this project to come to fruition for some time," said Ravenstahl. "The revival of a quality grocery store will not only help to reinvigorate the

neighborhood by creating jobs, and filling a hole in the business district, it will also provide residents much needed access to healthy food.”

Final drawings and evidence of financing were presented today by Centre Heldman Plaza, LLC. The proposed project is a 36,410 square foot, neighborhood retail shopping center. The grocery store alone should bring 46 full-time equivalent jobs. Estimated total development cost is \$7.2 million. A spring closing is anticipated.

Centre Heldman Plaza, LLC, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hill House Economic Development Corporation.

Dinwiddie Street Housing

Authorization was granted today for the sale of land along Dinwiddie Street to Dinwiddie Housing Limited Partnership II for \$34,500 for the redevelopment of the 200 and 300 blocks of Dinwiddie Street in the lower Hill District neighborhood of the City of Pittsburgh.

Dinwiddie Street Housing Phase II includes a 23 unit rental housing development consisting of townhomes and apartment units. The new five building development will meet Energy Star Standards. One of the new buildings located at Dinwiddie and Reed Streets will contain a management office and a community room for residents. All units will be made available to households at or below 60 percent of the area median income.

Additionally owner-occupants living in the 200 block of Dinwiddie St. will be eligible to receive up to \$7,500 for façade improvements. The façade improvement program will be managed by the developer and utilize the same contractor and architect.

Dinwiddie Housing Limited Partnership II, TREK Development Group, the general partner, was awarded Low Income Housing Tax Credits through the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency to help complete the project. Total project cost for Phase II is \$7.6 million. Construction is anticipated to begin spring 2011.

Phase I of the project is nearly complete and leasing will begin later this month. A portion of the units will provide new housing for tenants relocating from the Reed Roberts site, an adjacent apartment building that is in the process of being demolished.

###

The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) is the City of Pittsburgh's economic development agency, committed to creating jobs, expanding the City's tax base and improving the vitality of businesses and neighborhoods. The URA achieves this mission by assembling, preparing and conveying sites for major mixed-use developments; and by providing a portfolio of programs that include financing for business location, relocation and expansion, housing construction and rehabilitation, and home purchases and improvements.