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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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URA, CITY REDD-UP CREW COLLABORATE WITH REBUILDING TOGETHER PITTSBURGH TO HELP LOW-INCOME HOMEOWNERS AND ELIMINATE BLIGHT IN HOMEWOOD

(PITTSBURGH) October 13 Building off the success of the recently announced [Sustainable Home Improvement Partnership](#), Mayor Luke Ravenstahl announced today that the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) and the City's Redd Up crew are teaming up with Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh (RTP) for a two-day, volunteer event in the North Homewood neighborhood that will help low-income seniors with critical home repairs and the neighborhood at large by eliminating blight. This event, or Neighborhood Block Build, is sponsored by the URA and will run today and tomorrow, Oct. 13 and 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 pm. along Race Street.

"Like the Sustainable Home Improvement Partnership we announced yesterday, this program continues our efforts to help our residents who need it most," said Mayor Luke Ravenstahl. "Through the repairs, renovations and clean-up provided by this program, we are helping to ensure that our seniors can age safely in their own homes, restoring home equity to the family and the neighborhood, and improving quality of life for all by eliminating blight."

Rebuilding Together's Neighborhood Block Build program targets multiple homes in a given area in need of repairs and rehabilitation and performs these services at no cost to the homeowners.

"From the very beginning, two of my top priorities have been to remove the blight that exists within the communities that I represent as well as tend to my Senior Citizen Constituents," said City Councilman Reverend Ricky V. Burgess. "I am excited and believe that this initiative will send a message of hope. Many thanks to the Mayor and the URA for working so closely with me and enabling this initiative to come to fruition. Let this serve as a catalyst to spur more involvement in our East End Communities."

Approximately 35 URA employees, granted one day of administrative leave by Executive Director Rob Stephany, will collaborate with RTP house captains to paint and perform repairs on three homes, located at 7123, 7219 and 7426 Race St. In addition, URA employees will remove trash and apply decorative coverings to up to two dozen vacant houses in order to reduce blight and beautify the area.

Members of the City's Redd-Up crew will also participate by trimming, cleaning and clearing vacant lots. Dozens of Race St. residents are expected to pitch in as well.

“We are so grateful to the URA, the Mayor’s Office, Department of Public Works and Councilman Reverend Ricky Burgess for their tireless support of this effort,” said Steve Hellner-Burris, RTP executive director. “Thanks to them, these homeowners will have peace of mind and the community a renewed sense of hope and empowerment.”

This is a pilot project for the URA, with hopes it can be replicated in other parts of Homewood and across the City. The URA donated \$10,000 to RTP for supplies and materials.

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RTP is a non profit organization that provides free home repairs and renovates the homes of low-income, elderly homeowners and individuals with physical disabilities. It unites people of all walks of life in an effort to rebuild homes and repair lives. All home repair services are provided free of charge to qualifying homeowners. This is made possible by the generosity of corporations, civic groups, the Pittsburgh Building Trades, construction companies, schools, congregations and foundations.

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.