

Community Planning and Economic Development News Release

Contact: Rose Lindsay, Communications (612) 673.5015

Hawthorne EcoVillage Apartments Bringing 75 Units of Affordable Housing to North Minneapolis

Tuesday, July 12, 2015 (MINNEAPOLIS) – On Wednesday, July 13 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. elected officials, community and business leaders, friends, and neighbors will come together at 617 Lowry Avenue North to celebrate the official groundbreaking of the Hawthorne EcoVillage Apartments. Hawthorne EcoVillage Apartments, developed by Project for Pride in Living (PPL), will be a new construction featuring one apartment building and four townhouse units that together create 75, high-quality affordable rental homes.

“Transit-oriented, workforce housing is a critical need on the city’s Northside. We’re thrilled to get started on this unique project that will help stabilize the Hawthorne Neighborhood,” said Paul Williams, President & CEO of PPL.

The official groundbreaking program begins at 4:30 p.m. and includes special guest speakers Paul Williams, President & CEO of PPL; Mary Tingerthal, Commissioner of Minnesota Housing Finance Agency; Hennepin County Commissioner Linda Higgins; Minneapolis City Council Member Blong Yang; Field Office Director Michele Smith of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and Dave Ellis of the Hawthorne Neighborhood Association.

“This expansion of the Hawthorne EcoVillage is another great investment in North Minneapolis and will help reinvigorate the Lowry corridor,” said Council Member Blong Yang. “These lots have sat vacant for many years and I welcome Project for Pride in Living’s commitment to North Minneapolis. We are getting 75 new units of affordable housing where we used to have rampant drug dealing, dozens of foreclosures and crumbling houses.”

Hawthorne EcoVillage Apartments will be the first major redevelopment along Lowry Avenue since the street was renovated in 2007-2008. The project will feature a number of green elements including a state-of-the-art system to treat and infiltrate rainwater. This system includes a holding tank to reuse water as well as a weeping wall, raingarden and pervious pavers that filters rainwater above ground before it enters a below ground infiltration system. Other sustainable features include: a green roof on a portion of the main apartment

building, highly efficient mechanical systems, and a ground floor bike storage room to encourage use of alternative transportation modes.

Other amenities include onsite property management, a playground for children, patio with grills, underground parking, and a fitness room.

The project is supported by Associated Bank, City of Minneapolis, Hawthorne Neighborhood, Home Depot Foundation, HUD, Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, and National Equity Fund.

Construction is expected to be completed in September 2017 with the first residents moving in later that same year.

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