

For Immediate Release

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Former blighted motel property to be transformed for at-risk youth Development will be named to honor long-time Franklinton advocate

Finance Fund is planning a new development that aims to meet the needs of Columbus' homeless youth with two former motels in Franklinton transformed into a campus-like setting. The project will primarily support youth ages 18-24 who are homeless or have "aged out" of the foster care system, and have no place to call home. Located at the site of the former Knights Inn and Motel 6, at 1551 W. Broad Street, the \$4.5 million development will consist of 80 efficiency apartments and include stabilizing resources for the residents.

"As we move forward with plans for affordable housing, we need to ensure that we address the needs of all of our residents," said Mayor Andrew J. Ginther. "This project helps one of our most vulnerable populations transition to stable housing and help them develop the skills and confidence they need to live successfully on their own."

The City of Columbus will contribute \$1.6 million to the project through funds that were allocated to support the work of the Affordable Housing Alliance in 2017. The goal of the development is to create a community within a community. Project partner, Star House, will help connect residents with employment, education, transportation, health care, therapy, mentors and more. The campus will be designed to create a sense of community. For example, there will be front porches, indoor and outdoor community spaces, a community garden and each building will have a different theme.

"Eliminating blight through nuisance abatement not only provides an opportunity for redevelopment but an opportunity to provide our at-risk youth with a fresh start at life. What was a vacant and abandoned building will now be a source of pride for our community as we provide our youth with housing, healthcare and counseling services," said Columbus City Councilmember Shayla Favor.

Other details of the development include:

- Rents at or below fair market value
- Seven buildings on four acres
- Fully equipped kitchenette, bath and sleeping/living space
- Common areas
- Healthcare offices
- Counseling services

Employment opportunities will be offered by Stauf's Coffee Roasters and other local businesses. The campus is located on a bus line and transportation will be available with a 14-passenger van donated by COSI.

The development will be named “Carol Stewart Village,” in honor of long-time Franklinton resident and advocate Carol Stewart, who passed away in 2012. Stewart was one of the founding members of the Franklinton Area Commission.

“Finance Fund is thrilled to play a role in the revitalization of Franklinton, particularly on a project so critical to the success of the community’s at-risk youth. We look forward to partnering with local leaders to support the future tenants of Carol Stewart Village,” said Finance Fund President and CEO Diana Turoff.

“Young people are excited about Carol Stewart Village, because it’s a youth-centric, dormitory-style community where they will have the chance to gain livable-wage jobs, education and meaningful relationships. We’re inviting the community to join us as volunteers, mentors, and social service and employer partners,” said Ann Bischoff, Star House CEO.

Residents are expected to move on campus at the end of this year.

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