

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Civic leaders join forces in next phase of Weinland Park revitalization

Transforming carryouts into community cornerstones

June 12, 2014 (Columbus, OH) – Leaders of civic organizations today jointly announced real estate acquisitions of prime locations that are strategic to the ongoing redevelopment of Weinland Park. This new infusion of capital will enable continued progress in transforming the neighborhood.

Campus Partners for Community Urban Redevelopment, through grants from The Ohio State University, The Columbus Foundation and Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, closed today on the purchase of two sites previously occupied by carryouts. In turn, the organization will sell the D&J Carryout at the corner of North 4th Street and 8th Avenue to Community Properties of Ohio (CPO), an affiliate of Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, and promote redevelopment of Kelly's Carryout at North 4th Street and 11th Avenue following demolition and environmental clean-up.

For the last decade, Community Properties of Ohio, a not-for-profit management company, has redeveloped urban neighborhoods throughout Columbus, including Weinland Park. CPO has transformed blighted housing and crime-ridden streets into attractive and safe communities, paving the way for additional development and reinvestment. CPO will seek neighbors' input before deciding the future use for the site.

"We're proud to enhance our long-standing presence in Weinland Park. Working with area residents, we plan to transform the site into a community asset that will promote neighborhood stability and vibrancy," said Isabel Toth, president of CPO.

The real estate buys are another step in revitalizing the neighborhood bordered by downtown and The Ohio State University, an effort that began more than a decade ago, and led to the 2006 Weinland Park Neighborhood Plan and the formation of the Weinland Park Collaborative. The carryout redevelopment plans have wide support, including financial contributions from the Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, The Columbus Foundation and Ohio State and technical assistance from Wagenbrenner Development.

"We're excited to partner with these outstanding organizations that share our commitment to the strategic redevelopment of Weinland Park," said Campus Partners President Amanda Hoffsis.

The cost of the D&J Carryout was \$380,000, and the cost of Kelly's Carryout was \$750,000, for a total cost of \$1.13 million. The Columbus Foundation contributed \$175,000 toward these purchases and The Ohio State University contributed \$855,000. CPO's parent company, Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, contributed \$75,000 toward the redevelopment of both former carryout sites and plans to purchase the D&J Carryout at 4th and 8th from Campus Partners for an additional \$25,000.

Campus Partners is talking to the City of Columbus about seeking additional grants to help pay for environmental remediation needed on the Kelly's Carryout property.

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Those involved with the transactions say that new owners will rejuvenate the troubled properties and benefit the community in several ways, by allowing more constructive use of the properties and improving safety.

“Weinland Park is a neighborhood of significance in our community,” said Douglas F. Kridler, president and ceo of The Columbus Foundation. “This project, another example of the extraordinary private/public collaboration that is at the core of Weinland Park’s revitalization, is a strategic step forward on the path of progress for Weinland Park.”

Brandyn McElroy, president of the Weinland Park Community Civic Association, commented, “Our association looks forward to working with these partners to transform the corners into attractive and thriving centers of community and commercial activity. Over the last several years the neighborhood has experienced a significant reduction in crime and increased feelings of security. The redevelopment of these corner stores will only continue this positive momentum,” he said.

Members of Columbus City Council also expressed their support. “Weinland Park is one of Columbus’ most dynamic neighborhoods and this announcement will help maintain the positive economic development momentum in the area,” said Columbus City Councilmember Michelle M. Mills, chair of the Development Committee. “The Weinland Park Collaborative has a proven track record of redevelopment and I look forward to the changes they are bringing to the community.”

Councilmember Zach M. Klein, chair of the Public Safety committee, said, “The Weinland Park Collaborative’s investment in these properties will make not just the University District neighborhoods but the entire community safer. It’s not every day that a group with the experience of the Weinland Park Collaborative comes to the table and makes the commitment to improving Columbus neighborhoods.”

The Weinland Park Collaborative continues to support a number of new and expanded programs that serve residents of the neighborhood, including educational enrichment, youth sports and recreation, and the delivery of full-term healthy babies. This summer nearly 700 slots have been available for youth in Weinland Park to participate in day camp, teen employment, sports programs, Freedom Schools, and youth character and leadership development activities.

About Community Properties of Ohio (www.cpoms.org): In 2003, Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing established CPO Management to renovate and manage the redevelopment of the largest portfolio of scattered site project-based Section 8 rental housing in the nation. In partnership with a number of community organizations, and active support of federal, state, and local government, the \$133 million, nine-phase redevelopment plan was successfully completed in 2009. Today CPO Management manages over 2,000 affordable housing units throughout Columbus and the state of Ohio, with a vision to build a national model of transformational affordable housing. Its three-fold mission is to provide quality affordable housing, link residents with services that can stabilize their housing, and move residents beyond poverty where possible.

About Campus Partners for Community Urban Development: Campus Partners was formed in 1995 as a 501(c) 3, private, non-profit corporation working in the urban neighborhoods surrounding the Ohio State University. The hallmark of Campus Partners’ work has been a market-based strategy which relies on community planning, a comprehensive approach to neighborhood renewal, partnerships among the major stakeholders and strategic projects that leverage private investment and change underlying conditions in the neighborhoods. Our mission is to revitalize distressed neighborhoods within the University District of Columbus, Ohio. We will improve the quality of life for students, faculty, staff, residents and business owners throughout the university community and thereby, reinforce the stature of The Ohio State University as one of the world’s great public research and teaching universities.

About The Columbus Foundation: The Columbus Foundation is the trusted philanthropic advisor® to more than 2,000 individuals, families, businesses, and communities that have created unique funds to make a difference in the lives of others through the most effective philanthropy possible. Now 70 years strong, The Columbus Foundation is the seventh largest community foundation in the United States. The Foundation's online giving marketplace, PowerPhilanthropy®, makes it possible for everyone to access valuable information about nonprofit organizations in central Ohio. Visit www.columbusfoundation.org to learn more.

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