



Planning & Development Department

News Release

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MEDIA NOTE: Metropolitan Affordable Housing's Executive Director, Richard Herman, is available for interviews at 541-683-1751 or richardherman@qwestoffice.net.

Affordable Housing Project Wins Unanimous Approval from City Council

On September 28th, the Eugene City Council unanimously approved funding for 56 new affordable housing units, including 16 units for persons with developmental disabilities. Metropolitan Affordable Housing's Willakenzie Crossing will be a community apartment-style development located on the former Willakenzie School site which is part of the City's Landbanking Program for Affordable Housing.

More than one-half of all renters in the Eugene area pay more than 30% of their income towards housing. The affordable housing units developed with this project are a welcomed and needed addition to Eugene.

Metropolitan Affordable Housing (Metro) was approved to receive \$670,000 in HOME funds, up to \$185,000 in Eugene system development charge waivers, and \$60,000 in Eugene Water & Electric Board waivers, along with a 20-year Property Tax Exemption for Low-Income Rental Housing from the City of Eugene. "We are very excited about delivering another 56 units of critically needed affordable housing in our community," noted Metro's Executive Director, Richard Herman, "and we appreciate the support and encouragement we have received from the City."

Metro is partnering with Supporting Access to Independent Living (SAIL) Housing to provide services for residents with developmental disabilities. The project also includes

the Catherine Bogart Community Center, a children's play area, and a 1,382 square foot community garden area.

Through the Landbanking Program for Affordable Housing (Landbank), the City of Eugene acquires land suitable for the future development of housing that is affordable to low-income persons. Since the purchase of the Landbank's first site in 1979, nearly 90 acres have been acquired for affordable housing using a combination of federal and local funds.

Using the Landbank, the City has created a steady stream of affordable housing sites throughout the community. The projects are indistinguishable from market rate developments and are often admired for their high-quality appearance, construction, and management. The Landbanking Program is a cornerstone of Eugene's overall affordable housing program.

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