



Community Planning and Economic Development Department

Media Advisory

Contacts: Rose Lindsay, CPED Communications (W) 612.673.5015 (C) 612.250.8661

For Immediate Release

Commons at Penn to Break Ground at Corner of Penn Ave and Golden Valley Road September 30

What: On Tuesday, September 30, 2014, locally based nonprofit Building Blocks will celebrate the groundbreaking for Commons at Penn, a new 47-unit affordable housing apartment complex located at 2201 Golden Valley Road. The event will begin at 11:00 a.m. with the Building Blocks team and Board of Directors joined by several local officials including City Council Member Blong Yang, Representative Raymond Dehn, and Policy Aide to Mayor Hodges, Erick Garcia Luna, and representatives from other public and private partners in the project.

Expected to be completed by mid-2015, Commons at Penn will also include space for Building Blocks to provide youth and family development programs focused on physical health, youth mentoring, and other topics. The first floor will include space for a community outreach clinic operated by NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center where community members will have access to health education classes, events, and health care services. There will also be a fitness facility with professional equipment that will be accessible to residents and integrated into programming offered by Building Blocks and NorthPoint.

The project is being supported by the City of Minneapolis through the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and Tax Exempt Housing Revenue Bonds, Hennepin County through its Environmental Response Fund, Transit-Oriented Development program and Affordable Housing Incentive Fund (AHIF), Metropolitan Council through its Livable Communities Demonstration Account program, Minnesota Housing through its Economic Development and Housing Challenge program, the Pohlad Foundation, the Family Housing Fund, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and Sunrise Bank who is providing the first mortgage.

Building Blocks was founded by former NBA player and North Minneapolis native Devean George in 2011. The organization focuses on the development of youth and families by focusing on a combination of housing, mentoring, and educational programming. This is Building Blocks first housing development in Minneapolis.

Who: Devean George, Building Blocks
City of Minneapolis Council Member Blong Yang,
Erick Garcia Luna, Economic Development Policy Aide to Mayor Hodges
Representative Raymond Dehn
Rick Beeson, Sunrise Banks

When: Tuesday, September 30 at 11:00 a.m.

Where: 2201 Golden Valley Road, Minneapolis

###