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Community Properties Announces Plan to ‘Eliminate the Elements’ Surrounding \$85 Million Affordable Housing Initiative

Columbus, Ohio – Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing (OCCH), Community Properties of Ohio (CPO) Management Services and Campus Partners today celebrated a new beginning for the Weinland Park neighborhood with the demolition of 228 East 8th Ave., a property in the Community Properties portfolio with a history of persistent drug activity, gang activity and crime. Mayor Michael Coleman joined representatives from the Columbus Police Department to talk about CPO Management Services’ ‘Eliminate the Elements’ crime-prevention plan.

“The City of Columbus strongly supports the creation of safe, attractive and affordable housing opportunities for all residents in Columbus and our many communities,” said Mayor Michael Coleman. “Not only is Community Properties improving Columbus’ urban neighborhoods through substantial investments in the appearance and function of its properties, but it also has partnered with the City of Columbus and other local entities to develop a plan to address and decrease criminal activity in identified neighborhoods.”

Community Properties is an \$85 million low-income housing initiative that – over time – will open the door to more than 1,000 renovated apartments and townhouses in over 200 buildings for people with average household incomes of less than \$10,000. The buildings are located in seven urban Columbus neighborhoods, focused primarily around The Ohio State University and near east side areas. To assist with these efforts, about 300 rundown housing units will be sold or demolished, including the one on 228 East 8th Ave. The improvements are part of a six-phase redevelopment plan.

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“Already, Community Properties is making a significant impression on the physical and social landscape of the neighborhoods which it affects,” said Hal Keller, president of Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing. “The ‘Eliminate the Elements’ program is a partnership among CPO Management Services, the City of Columbus, community leaders, local churches, area businesses, schools and residents to address the problem of criminal activity and find a way to eliminate the negative elements that contribute to it.”

Specifically, the crime prevention plan calls for an increased police presence throughout the seven affected neighborhoods, community safety support and training for residents and community groups, and substantial rehabilitations to each unit including enhanced security measures. To implement this program, CPO Management Services is partnering with the Columbus Department of Public Safety, the Columbus Division of Police, the division’s Strategic Response Bureau, and the Columbus Department of Development’s Code Enforcement office.

Renovation work on the first 300 units began in May, with an anticipated completion date on all the units by the end of 2006.

Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing (OCCH) is an independent, non-profit corporation originally created by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency. OCCH has raised more than \$650 million in equity and invested in over 225 partnerships, which have produced more than 11,500 units of affordable housing in 65 Ohio counties.

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