



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OLNEYVILLE HOUSING AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BYRNE GRANT

Providence, RI: The US Department of Justice announced that Olneyville Housing Corporation is one of 14 recipients of the highly competitive Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program. Olneyville Housing, in partnership with the Providence Police Department, Providence Housing Authority, RI LISC and Roger Williams University's School of Justice Study will use the three year, \$599,868 grant to support an anti-crime "hotspot" and blighted property redevelopment strategy in the northwest section of the neighborhood.

A portion of this prestigious grant will go directly to the Providence Police Department for the purposes of revising and instituting new foot patrol patterns in areas of Olneyville designated as "hot spots" for violent crime. "This award will allow us to more effectively combat serious violent crimes along the Manton Corridor, ensuring a safer community and a more positive public perception of Olneyville as a whole," said Police Chief Colonel Hugh T. Clements, Jr.

Olneyville Housing will also use the award to further its efforts to remediate nuisance properties that serve as magnets for crime. In the past year, the coordinated efforts of the City's Nuisance Taskforce have resulted in improvements with 22 problem properties in the neighborhood. "I congratulate Olneyville Housing on their being awarded this competitive federal grant," said Mayor Taveras. "These

new resources will enhance Providence's work to address issues related to foreclosure and blight in Olneyville and contribute to the ongoing revitalization of the neighborhood."

The Byrne Program is part of the Obama Administration's Promise Zones Initiative. Through the Promise Zones initiative, the federal government, including Departments of Justice, Education, Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services and Agriculture, will invest in and partner with neighborhoods like Olneyville. Olneyville was selected as a Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant recipient in 2011. Through the Choice award, Olneyville Housing, Providence Housing Authority, Meeting Street, Rhode Island LISC and the City of Providence are developing a comprehensive transformation plan for the neighborhood to link the Manton Heights public housing development with the rest of Olneyville, and create new housing, employment and community amenities for the whole neighborhood.

"We are grateful for the Obama Administration's continued investment in the long term efforts of these partners to make Olneyville a community of choice for all residents," said Olneyville Housing Corporation Associate Executive Director Jennifer Hawkins.

About Olneyville Housing Corporation

Olneyville Housing was founded in 1988 to promote the comprehensive revitalization of the Olneyville neighborhood in Providence. Our mission is to work with residents to build a safe, healthy and stable community. We accomplish our mission through the creation and preservation of affordable housing, development of commercial real estate to spur economic development in the neighborhood, individual asset building, as well as community building and organizing. To date, OHC has developed 48 homes for first time low-income homebuyers and 118 units of affordable rental housing, as well as over 11,000 square feet of office and retail space. OHC's current development efforts are focused on the area around the D'Abate Elementary School that was hit hardest by the foreclosure crisis. We acquired Paragon Mills, a 120,000 square foot historic property, in November 2011; it will be restored and redeveloped into commercial use, with the intention of creating new jobs in Olneyville and serving as the linchpin to broader economic development in the neighborhood's commercial district.

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