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NEWS RELEASE

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City of Augusta selected to receive \$450,000 Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant

AUGUSTA, GA (Nov. 15, 2021) – The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has selected the City of Augusta to receive a \$450,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant. The federal funding is a two-year planning grant that aims to support the development of comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plans, which focus on directing resources to address housing, people, and neighborhoods.

“Affordable housing is one of the driving forces for economic prosperity, and this planning grant allows the City of Augusta to address the connected challenges between revitalizing distressed neighborhoods and providing affordable housing to allow residents to benefit from the growth and improvement of their community,” said City Administrator Odie Donald, II. “I applaud the Augusta Commission for their continued leadership in finding creative ways to provide resources to uplift neighborhoods that have been neglected far too long.”

MCG Foundation President and CEO Ian Mercier expressed similar sentiments.

“This grant is an expression of belief in these communities and Augusta -not just by those who put this complex grant together, but by HUD and our development partners,” said Mercier. “It is also proof that perhaps even the unlikeliest partners can collaborate to do something far greater than themselves - to be led by the residents of Laney Walker and Harrisburg in bettering their neighborhoods and homes.”

With the funding, Augusta will develop a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy, known as a Transformation Plan, for the resurgence of communities adjacent to the public housing development of Allen Homes, specifically Harrisburg, Laney Walker, and Bethlehem. As part of the plan, city officials will also incorporate extensive community engagement to ensure the projects thoroughly benefit citizens of Augusta.

“This planning grant signifies yet another resource dedicated to the ongoing efforts to meet the needs of Richmond County residents,” said Augusta Georgia Land Bank Authority Executive Director Shawn Edwards. “This collaborative effort of the Augusta Commission and the Augusta Housing Authority further emphasizes a commitment to maintaining affordable housing in a rapidly developing urban core, producing positive outcomes for long-term residents and transforming the community with an inclusive vision.”

Media interested in covering this topic should contact Danielle Harris at dharris@augustaga.gov or call 706-564-3460.

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