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**THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF TAMPA AND ITS DEVELOPMENT PARTNER, RELATED URBAN DEVELOPMENT GROUP WILL BREAK GROUND ON 2nd PHASE OF A 1,600 UNIT WEST RIVER REDEVELOPMENT PLAN**

*Construction to Begin on the Rehabilitation of 150 Affordable Senior Housing Units at Mary Bethune Apartments in West Tampa*

TAMPA, Fla. (July 15, 2019) – The Tampa Housing Authority (THA) and the Related Urban Development Group (RUDG), a division of industry leader, The Related Group announced the start of the second phase of the revitalization of the former North Boulevard Homes. This rehabilitation project, which sits on a 44-acre site, is part of the city’s larger redevelopment plan for the West River area that aims to create a multi-generational, mixed-use, mixed-income community.

During this phase of construction, the existing Mary Bethune Apartments within West River will undergo a full interior, exterior and site renovation. Upon completion in late-2020, the renovated structure will provide 150 units to senior residents. The building’s rehabilitation will include a new fitness center, community center, clubhouse, media room, various outdoor amenities, stylish cabinets with granite countertops, Energy Star appliances, secure entry into the building, impact-resistant windows, and more. All former Mary Bethune residents will have an opportunity to move back into the property upon completion.

“This project represents the beginning of West River’s renaissance,” says Mayor Jane Castor. “The Hillsborough River acts as Downtown’s main artery, and it is important that we dedicate our resources to revitalizing this historic area and providing affordable housing to its residents.” THA President/CEO, Jerome Ryans added, “This is a very important milestone for the agency as it continues to provide housing to income eligible residents seeking affordable housing opportunities within our community.

Originally constructed in 1966, the eight-story Mary Bethune building has 107,000 square feet of interior space and 13,000 square feet of covered walkways, as well as 16,000 square feet of interior common space on the first floor.

Future phases of West River’s redevelopment will include more than 1,600 residential units that will include affordable, workforce and market-rate rentals, as well as for-sale homes, and nearly 200,000-square feet of commercial and office space.

“This redevelopment will not only change the lives of the West River residents but will play a key role in the future of Tampa Bay,” says Albert Milo, president of RUDG. Adding “RUDG and THA are dedicated to providing Downtown Tampa and its citizens the resources necessary to thrive utilizing our mixed-income model. We are incredibly proud to be involved in this transformative endeavor for the city.”

We hope that you join us as we continue to provide quality housing for the Tampa Bay community.

- WHAT:** Mary Bethune Apartments Ceremonial Ground-breaking
- WHEN:** Friday, July 19, 2019 - 1:30-2:00 PM
- WHERE:** 1515 Union Street, West Tampa
- INTERVIEW/PHOTOS:** Honorable Mayor Jane Castor; THA President/CEO Jerome Ryans, THA SVP/COO Leroy Moore; Director of Acquisitions for The Related Group, Brett Green; Members of Tampa City Council; Other Dignitaries

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**Cultivating Affordable Housing While Empowering People and Communities”**

*“Building a World-Class Community, One Family and One Neighborhood at a Time”*