

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Hazel S. Harvey, Chair

Robert Shimberg, Vice Chair

James A. Cloar

Billi Johnson-Griffin

Susan Johnson-Velez

Rubin E. Padgett

Ben Wacksman

Jerome D. Ryans President/CEO

5301 West Cypress Street Tampa, Florida 33607

P. O. Box 4766 Tampa, Florida 33677

OFFICE: (813) 341-9101

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT: LaToya Carter Latoya.carter@thafl.com 813-341-9101 x3590

## BREAKING NEW GROUND; THE TAMPA HOUSING AUTHORITY CELEBRATES THE FOURTH BUILDING TO GO VERTICAL ON THE ENCORE! SITE

**TAMPA** (*February 18, 2014*)--- It was a standing room only crowd that included Tampa's Mayor Bob Buckhorn, Congresswoman Kathy Castor and a host of other business and community affiliates, as the Tampa Housing Authority held its fourth groundbreaking ceremony, Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, to commemorate the Tempo at ENCORE!. The Tempo will be a 7-story multi-family apartment building that will offer 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom units. Built with the active family in mind, the Tempo will house a performance theater, retail spaces and a two-story clubhouse equipped with a recording studio and much more.

"Another exciting step for Tampa," says Kathy Castor, U.S. Congresswoman. "With the money received from the Choice Neighborhood Grant, this vision is now a reality; we are definitely headed in the right direction."

Scheduled for completion in 2015, the Tempo will be a LEED Silver Certification development. Named in honor of the rich musical history of Downtown Tampa's Central Avenue; the Tempo is a joint public-private partnership venture with Banc of America Community Development Corp. and the Tampa Housing Authority.

"THA has taken a drug invested violent neighborhood and turned it around," says Mayor Bob Buckhorn. "In a few years this neighborhood will connect Ybor to downtown Tampa and be a place that we can all be proud of."

At build out, the ENCORE! will include 794 mixed-income rental housing units, 300 marketrate ownership units and 268,000 square feet of commercial office and retail space, including an office, hotel, museum, school, grocery store, restaurants and other businesses. This former public housing site is expected to return nearly \$425 million in real estate value to the property tax rolls, including more than 4,000 construction jobs and 1,200 permanent jobs over the next five to seven years.

"Every building on this site was designed with the stability of our families in mind," said Jerome D. Ryans, President and CEO. "We are well on our way. What started out, as a concept in the minds of architects and developers is surely a reality. This is only the beginning. We are invested in the success of the ENCORE!"

## About The Tampa Housing Authority

The Housing Authority of the City of Tampa promotes the development and professional management of a variety of affordable housing opportunities, facilities and supportive services to neighborhoods. Additionally, THA provides economic development and self-sufficiency activities to residents while assuring equal access to safe, quality housing for low and moderate-income families throughout the community.

www.thafl.com