



**1 Fourth Street
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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CITY PROVIDES NEW AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS FOR CHESTER RESIDENTS

Chester, PA -- After years of work acquiring, relocating and demolishing blighted properties in Chester's west end, the City is proud of its newest housing development, Wellington Heights. In partnership with Pennrose Properties, the 50 new units are being constructed using a variety of funding sources that make it possible to sell the homes to first time buyers at a reasonable price. Wellington Heights is just another chapter in the City's efforts to revitalize neighborhoods and provide quality homeownership options for low and moderate-income families.

"It is our goal to provide more affordable, quality housing options so that residents have the opportunity to own a home they can be proud of," said Mayor Wendell N. Butler, Jr., "Wellington Heights offers families the chance to invest in their future and build a life in this fine City of Chester," said Mayor Butler.

Through a major redevelopment effort the City targeted the southwest quadrant of Highland Gardens, acquiring 122 parcels, relocating all of the residents and demolishing all of the structures. In place of the blighted, densely developed area will stand 42 new homes. As part of Mayor and Council's goal to provide new and affordable housing, an additional eight homes were built and sold as part of Wellington Heights at 6th and Reaney Streets on a parcel of land previously owned by the Chester Redevelopment Authority.



Wellington Heights provides a great opportunity for first-time homebuyers.

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Brightly colored with a contemporary design, the new, twin homes start at a base price of \$92,500. All are standard with three bedrooms, 1.5 baths, full basements, gas heat, central air, public water and sewer. Four of the homes are designated for accessible/handicap usage.

As a result of the City's efforts, the dream of purchasing a new home can now become a reality for many families in Chester. Over the past six years Crozer Hills, Logan Terrace, Union Square and now Wellington Heights have resulted in more than 100 new affordable homeownership units being built in Chester, making it possible for residents to move up, not out.

Perspective residents can take advantage of affordable prices, a variety of housing options, real estate tax abatement incentives and low interest rates as well as up to \$10,000 in down payment and closing cost assistance through the City's Homebuyer Assistance Program. First-time homebuyers who purchase a home before November 30, 2009, can receive a federal tax credit up to \$8,000. All of these advantages make this the year to buy a home in Chester and Wellington Heights provides residents with the perfect opportunity to do so.

"These homes are selling quickly and are available at the best possible time to buy," said Lisa Gaffney, Housing Director, "Between affordable prices, tax abatement incentives and the City's homeownership program, residents can buy for less than they can rent," said Ms. Gaffney.

Designated for low and moderate-income families, the City's Homebuyer Assistance Program (HAP) assists those who are financially capable of paying a mortgage and who are in a position to accept the responsibilities of owning a home, but have had difficulty in providing the cash required for a down payment and settlement costs. Designated for low and moderate-income families, the program will provide 50% of the down payment required by the lending institution up to a maximum of \$5,000. Additionally, HAP provides financial assistance for any eligible closing costs up to a maximum of \$5,000.

For more information on Wellington Heights visit www.wellingtonheightshomes.com. For additional information on housing opportunities in Chester and the City's Homeownership Program, please contact Lisa Gaffney, Housing Director at 610-447-7861.

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