



NEWS RELEASE

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CITY BREAKS GROUND ON NEW RECREATION CENTER

Chester, PA –Today the City celebrated the official ground breaking for Chester’s new recreation center, future home of the Boys and Girls Club of Chester. Joined by state and local officials, Mayor Wendell N. Butler, Jr. and City Council are making the announcement at 3:00 pm on the project’s construction site located at 7th and Madison Streets in Chester, Pennsylvania.

As part of an effort to expand recreational opportunities for Chester youth, Mayor and Council have worked diligently over the past several years to provide a new recreation center to house the Boys and Girls Club of Chester. The project site selected is located in Chester’s east end at 7th and Madison Streets on parcel previously assembled by the City for this type of facility. As the Boys and Girls Club is currently located off of Route 291 at Front and Fulton Streets in an old filter treatment house, the new location will provide better access for Chester youth.

"This is going to be a first-class structure that will serve the needs of our youth well into the future," said Mayor Wendell N. Butler, Jr. "It will provide a larger space for the Boys and Girls Club that is safer, far more usable, attractive, inviting and accessible than its current location."

At the ceremony the City revealed the official name of the center as the George E. Carter Center, in honor of the current Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Chester. Serving the Boys and Girls Club for more than 52 years, Mr. Carter has been Executive Director since 1998 and previously served as the club’s Athletic Director. Mr. Carter also served as a teacher and coach for 38 years in the Chester Upland School District.

“We decided to name the new center in honor of Mr. Carter because of his longstanding service with the Boys and Girls Club here in Chester,” said Mayor Butler. “His unwavering dedication and commitment to our young people has made a difference in the lives of hundreds and for that we are extremely grateful.”

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The George E. Carter Center will not only serve as a recreation center but also a place where youth can learn and grow as individuals through technology, the arts and educational programming. The Carter Center will feature a computer lab, classroom and tutorial space, indoor basketball courts, a general recreation/activities area, and other related amenities. Construction of the project is expected to be complete by spring 2010.

Because Mayor and Council care deeply about the recreational and educational opportunities available for Chester youth, the City provided more than \$2 million to make this project happen. In addition to the funding provided by the City, state funding included a \$500,000 Redevelopment Assistance Capital (RACP) grant secured through the efforts of Senate Majority Leader Dominic F. Pileggi. An additional \$500,000 was provided through the efforts of State Representative Thaddeus Kirkland and \$500,000 in Housing and Redevelopment Assistance (HRA) funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

For more information about the Boys and Girls Club of Chester, visit www.bgcchester.org.

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