



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 30, 2009

Contact:

Allison Bussler, Chief-of-Staff, Waukesha County – (262) 548-7902

Steve Crandell, Community Development Director, City of Waukesha – (262) 524-3754

WAUKESHA NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Details of a housing redevelopment project revealed

Waukesha, WIS. – County Executive Dan Vrakas and Waukesha Mayor Larry Nelson announced, at a press conference this afternoon, plans to purchase and demolish the former YWCA building and for the redevelopment of the site. The City of Waukesha Redevelopment Authority plans to construct 11-16 owner-occupied, workforce housing units on the site.

“We are very excited about this opportunity,” said Waukesha Mayor Larry Nelson. “This development will enrich the surrounding neighborhood and have a large impact on the revitalization of the greater community.”

Next month, County Executive Vrakas and Mayor Nelson will submit a proposal for action to their respective boards requesting acceptance of Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds for this project and others, completion of the appraisal of the former YWCA and authorize purchase of the property.

“The ordinance that I am proposing to the County Board will provide resolution to the long standing question about the disposition of the former YWCA property,” said Vrakas. “I am looking forward to working with all parties involved to help promote a revitalized Waukesha as well as other communities within the county.”

In 2008, HUD awarded the state of Wisconsin \$38.6 million through the Housing and Economic Recovery Act. HUD directed the funds to be used for “emergency assistance for the redevelopment of abandoned and foreclosed properties.”

In January, in response to the State Request for Proposal process, the City of Waukesha, Waukesha County and nonprofit partners, filed a joint application for funds of \$1.85 million to redevelop the former YWCA, as well as other properties in Waukesha County, through HUD.

Of the money awarded, Waukesha County, as the entitlement grantee, was allocated approximately \$1.3 million in project funds and additional administration money to embark on the programs.

Waukesha County is looking at additional activities to utilize the remaining funds in partnership with nonprofit agencies to purchase or rehabilitate and resell other foreclosed properties.

###