

# PRESSRELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 18, 2023

## **Worcester Housing Authority, Trinity Financial Inc. receive grant for Curtis Apartments redevelopment**

**LOWELL, Massachusetts** – The Worcester Housing Authority and Trinity Financial Inc., who are partnering on the redevelopment of one of WHA's oldest properties, Curtis Apartments, are excited to announce they have been awarded funding from the state Department of Housing and Community Development to help facilitate Phase 1 of the project.

The award was one of 27 announced Thursday, May 18 by DHCD Undersecretary Jennifer Maddox, at a ceremony held at Merrimack Valley Food Bank featuring Gov. Maura Healey, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll and newly appointed Secretary of Housing Ed Augustus, Jr., making his first public appearance in the role. He officially starts June 1.

The redevelopment of Curtis Apartments is a four-phase project led by Trinity Financial, which will increase the number of apartments from 372 to 527. The 372 units will be reserved for those earning 30 percent annual median income, while all new units (155) will be for those earning 60 percent and 80 percent AMI.

The exact amount of the award from DHCD was not immediately announced, but the total Phase 1 cost is roughly \$90 million. The total project cost is more than \$330 million. Trinity Financial had requested State Low Income Housing Tax Credits and a DHCD Subsidy for Phase 1.

"This announcement is music to our ears," said WHA CEO Alex Corrales, who attended the event along with WHA Board Chair Joseph P. Carlson and WHA COO Peter Proulx. "The redevelopment of Curtis Apartments is a vital part of the future of the Worcester Housing Authority and our efforts to not only provide a safe, comfortable living environment for our residents, but to increase the number of available affordable housing units. We know how critical the need is here in Worcester and WHA is proud to be part of the solution.

"I thank Gov. Healey, Lt. Gov. Driscoll, Secretary Augustus and DCHD for recognizing the importance of supporting these projects in all parts of the state, and particularly in Gateway Cities like Worcester and Lowell, which have larger populations of families in need of affordable housing."

Added Carlson: "Beyond the dollars and cents, this is about being able to see the Curtis project move forward and helping the WHA fulfill its mission of providing housing for those most in

need. Thank you to our partners at DCHD and particularly the Healey Administration and Secretary Augustus, who we know will keep the Central Massachusetts and Worcester, in particular, in keen focus as he tackles the issue of affordable housing.”

Patrick Lee, founder and owner of Trinity Financial, which also oversaw the redevelopment of the old Worcester County Courthouse in Lincoln Square into what is now the 118-unit Courthouse Lofts, said: “We are grateful to the Healey Administration and DCHD for providing this funding which will go toward creating much-needed public housing in Worcester. I also want to recognize the WHA and its Board of Commissioners for their relentless commitment to providing quality affordable housing for their residents.”

In brief remarks at today’s program, Healey called housing “the foundation” to all the work being done to help residents, acknowledging that, for many, having a place to call home is not feasible.

“Having a roof over your head, for too many it’s too over [their heads] right now,” Healey said.

Augustus, who had not spoken publicly since his appointment was announced earlier this week, said two words describe the work he will do as housing secretary.

“More, faster,” he said. “We need to do everything in our power to get these projects underway. There are real people who need these housing opportunities.”

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*Left to right, Worcester Housing Authority CEO Alex Corrales, Trinity Financial Project Manager Aaron Horne, state Housing Secretary Ed Augustus Jr., Gov. Maura Healey, WHA Board of Commissioners Chair Joseph Carlson, WHA COO Peter Proulx, Trinity Financial Principal Patrick Lee, and Trinity Financial Vice President of Development Michael Lozano/Walter Bird, Worcester Housing Authority photo*





*Gov. Maura Healey greets WHA CEO Alex Corrales with state Housing Secretary Ed Augustus, Jr./Walter Bird, Worcester Housing Authority photo*





*WHA CEO Alex Corrales introduces Gov. Maura Healey to WHA Board of Commissioners Chair Joseph Carlson with WHA CEO Alex Corrales/Walter Bird, Worcester Housing Authority photo*





*State Housing Secretary Ed Augustus, Jr. speaks during an event in Lowell Thursday, May 18, where the state Department of Housing and Community Development announced 27 funding awards to several agencies and their project partners, including Worcester Housing Authority and Trinity Financial Inc./Walter Bird, Worcester Housing Authority photo*





*WHA CEO Alex Corrales congratulates state Housing Secretary Ed Augustus Jr. on his recent appointment/Walter Bird, Worcester Housing Authority photo*





*Gov. Maura Healey greets WHA CEO Alex Corrales/Walter Bird, Worcester Housing Authority photo*





*WHA Board of Commissioners Chair Joseph P. Carlson enjoys a chat with former Worcester City Manager and newly appointed state Housing Secretary Ed Augustus, Jr./Walter Bird, Worcester Housing Authority photo*