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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**URA ANNOUNCES PLANS PROGRESSING FOR NEW FAMILY DOLLAR STORE
IN SHERADEN NEIGHBORHOOD**

(PITTSBURGH) April 9 The Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) announced today that it will enter into exclusive negotiations with Cozza Enterprises, LLC for the purchase and redevelopment of the former Sheraden Market and three surrounding properties in the City's Sheraden neighborhood, pending authorization from its Board of Directors at their meeting this Thursday. The developer is proposing a Family Dollar Store and Community Market Pavilion on the site, located at the intersection of Sheraden Boulevard and Hillsboro Street.

"Providing residents with quality food options in their own community is important to ensuring a neighborhood's strength and potential for growth," said Yarone Zober, chairman of the board of directors for the URA and chief of staff for Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl. "This new development will create jobs, help the community grow and advance Sheraden's revitalization."

"For the many residents who have dedicated time and personal investment in Sheraden, the announcement of a new Family Dollar and Community Market Pavilion is the pivotal moment they have been waiting for," said Councilwoman Theresa Kail-Smith. "I must thank all the community members whose input has played a crucial role in moving this development forward."

In December 2011, the URA, with Community Development Block Grant funding provided by Councilwoman Kail-Smith, bought the property and a nearby parking lot for \$425,000. In February 2013, the URA issued a Request for Proposals for the redevelopment of the property, ideally for grocery or food uses and received two responses.

"We're excited about the opportunity to help to revitalize this building in the heart of the neighborhood and provide what we think is a great community service," said Craig J. Cozza, president, Cozza Enterprises LLC.

Phase I will consist of the rehabilitation of the 6,200 square foot Sheraden Market. Demolition of the existing vacant structure will be coordinated by the URA this spring. Phase II will consist of the development of a Community Market Pavilion. Cozza Enterprises will offer a \$1-per-year annual lease to the Sheraden community group for the vacant lot at the corner of Sheraden Boulevard and Hillsboro Street. The Community Market Pavilion would utilize this parcel for an outdoor coffee café, produce vendors and the Farm to Table program, and other community seasonal events. Total development cost is estimated at \$1.75 million.

"Cozza Enterprises recently built a successful Family Dollar Store at 1215 Brighton Road, similar to what is proposed here," said URA Acting Executive Director Robert Rubinstein. "In addition,

they're providing some of the land to support a community-based food stand, which is important to the residents of Sheraden."

Additional nearby investment includes the purchase of seven abandoned or foreclosed houses on Bergman Street and its surrounding area as part of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. These houses will then be rehabilitated and sold to homeowners. To date, one unit has been sold, two are under construction and one unit is out to bid. Pittsburgh Housing Development Corporation (PHDC) anticipates the latter three units to be completed by early fall 2013. In addition, PHDC is in the process of acquiring three additional vacant or foreclosed homes in the neighborhood to complete its commitment of seven units.

The URA Board of Directors meets Thurs., April 11, at 2 p.m. in the URA offices at 200 Ross Street, Downtown.

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For more on the **Farm to Table** program click this link: <http://farmtotablepa.com/>

For more on the **Neighborhood Stabilization Program** click this link: <http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/mayor/article?id=1237>

The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) is the City of Pittsburgh's economic development agency, committed to creating jobs, expanding the City's tax base and improving the vitality of businesses and neighborhoods. The URA achieves this mission by assembling, preparing and conveying sites for major mixed-use developments; and by providing a portfolio of programs that include financing for business location, relocation and expansion, housing construction and rehabilitation, and home purchases and improvements.

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