



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**URA, CITY REDD-UP CREW COLLABORATE WITH REBUILDING TOGETHER PITTSBURGH
TO HELP LOW-INCOME HOMEOWNERS AND ELIMINATE BLIGHT IN SHERADEN**

(PITTSBURGH) October 24 Mayor Luke Ravenstahl announced today that the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) and the City's Redd Up crew are once again teaming up with Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh (RTP) for a two-day, volunteer event in the Sheraden neighborhood that will help low-income seniors with critical home repairs and the neighborhood at large by eliminating blight. This event, or Neighborhood Block Build, is sponsored by the URA and will run Oct. 25 and 26, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

"This work in Sheraden further exhibits our commitment to making certain Pittsburgh's Third Renaissance is inclusive of the City's south-west neighborhoods," Ravenstahl said. "Through the repairs, renovations and clean-up provided by this program, we are helping to ensure that our seniors can age safely in their own homes, restoring home equity to the family and the neighborhood, and improving quality of life for all by eliminating blight."

Rebuilding Together's Neighborhood Block Build program targets multiple homes in a given area in need of repairs and rehabilitation and performs these services at no cost to the homeowners.

"I am thankful that the URA continues to demonstrate a strong commitment towards the District 2 area," Councilwoman Theresa Kail-Smith said. "I also want to thank Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh for their commitment to providing assistance to needy senior, low income, disabled and veteran home owners."

Approximately 25 URA employees, granted one day of administrative leave by Acting Executive Director Robert Rubinstein, will collaborate with RTP house captains to paint and perform repairs on three homes, located at 3038 Landis St., 3021 Merwyn Ave., and 2763 Bergman St. In addition, URA employees will remove trash in order to reduce blight and beautify the area.

Members of the City's Redd-Up crew will also participate by trimming, cleaning and clearing vacant lots. Dozens of Sheraden residents are expected to pitch in as well.

"Nothing is more important when you are trying to stabilize the housing situation in a neighborhood than having the right partners at the table," said Steve Hellner-Burris, executive director of Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh. "We are so grateful to the URA, Mayor Ravenstahl, Councilwoman Theresa-Kail Smith, the West End Alliance, and especially the people of Sheraden for their tireless support of this effort. Thanks to their work, three long-time residents will live in safer and healthier homes for a long time to come."

This is the second year of this volunteer project for the URA, with hopes it can be replicated in other parts of Sheraden and across the City. The URA donated \$10,000 to RTP for supplies and materials.

Last year, the URA and the City's Redd-Up crew provided repairs to three homeowners, installed window coverings on 20+ vacant homes, cleared six lots of debris and overgrowth, leveraged over \$10,000 in volunteer labor and invested over \$20,000 in construction-related expenses.

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Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh believes that everyone deserves to live in a safe and healthy home. Our focus provides critical repairs, accessibility modifications and energy efficient upgrades to low-income homes and community centers at no cost to service recipients. Our impact extends beyond the individuals served to revitalize and stabilize vulnerable neighborhoods and communities across the country. Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh is one of 200 local affiliates that complete 10,000 rebuild projects a year thanks to the efforts of nearly 200,000 volunteers from corporate partners, skilled trades professionals and everyday good citizens. Join us - visit www.RTpittsburgh.org.

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.