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New Northeast Portland Housing Earns City Approval

(June 11, 2015) – PORTLAND, OR – Portland City Council voted yesterday to dedicate \$7.1 million toward the development of Miracles Central, a collaboration between the Portland Housing Bureau, Central City Concern, and the Miracles Club, to provide affordable housing combined with services for adults who wish to live in an alcohol and drug-free building.

Located at NE 2nd Avenue and NE Wasco Street, the project will follow the programming model of The Miracles Club Apartments, a similar building on NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, specializing in culturally competent recovery support for the African American community. The partnership with Central City Concern will help Miracles Club expand to meet the continuing demand for services.

“Even as the economy is rebounding, we know there are deep, persistent disparities in housing access and economic opportunity,” said Housing Commissioner Dan Saltzman. “Miracles Central is important and timely because it increases affordable housing and it also fills a need for the kinds of culturally specific services and programs that can help us

begin to address some of these disparities.”

“Miracles is proud to continue its partnership with Central City Concern through this project,” said Michael Booker, Miracles Club Interim Executive Director. “Central City Concern has extensive experience in combining housing and services and we look forward to our collaboration.”

In addition to capital funding, the Portland Housing Bureau is contributing the land toward the project. When complete, it is expected to provide 47 units of affordable housing, including 28 apartments affordable to lower-income households earning up to 50% of the area median income (\$25,750 for an individual). Central City Concern and Miracles Club will use the building’s ground floor for program-related services, including meetings and counseling. On-site staff will help tenants with life-skills, employment readiness, and eviction prevention, and work closely with tenants to develop action plans that may include steps like workforce development or education.

“Adding units of desperately needed affordable housing has been on our radar for a number of years,” said Central City Concern Executive Director Ed Blackburn. “We are proud to count Portland Housing Bureau as a major funder on this project.”

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