



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

DevelopSpringfield Announces Rebuild Springfield Progress Report

The Rebuild Springfield Plan is a city-wide master plan designed to provide a framework for addressing the redevelopment needs of neighborhoods impacted by the June 2011 tornado. Additionally, the plan serves as a guide for addressing a wide range of issues relevant to the city as a whole. DevelopSpringfield, in partnership with the Springfield Redevelopment Authority, facilitated the planning process which included the input of our city residents and stakeholders and was published in the Spring of 2012.

DevelopSpringfield hosted an event on May 29 to mark the two year anniversary of the Rebuild Springfield Plan release and to commemorate the third anniversary of the June 1, 2011 tornado. City officials, volunteers, contributors, residents and other stakeholders gathered on Central Street to hear remarks highlighting Rebuild Springfield Plan progress. Attendees were provided an opportunity to tour newly rebuilt homes in the severely tornado damaged Central Street corridor.

The gathering featured remarks by Mayor Domenic J. Sarno; Jay Minkarah, President and CEO of DevelopSpringfield; Nick Fyntrilakis, board chair, DevelopSpringfield and VP of Community Responsibility for MassMutual Financial Group; Bishop Bruce Shaw, Pastor, New Hope Pentecostal Church; Melvin Edwards, City Councilor and Maple High/Six Corners Neighborhood Council President; Tim Allen, City Councilor; Steven Bradley, DevelopSpringfield board member and VP of Government and Community Relations and Public Relations for Baystate Health; Jose Claudio, DevelopSpringfield board member and Director of Community Development for New North Citizens' Council and speaking on behalf of North End Housing Initiative; and Alberto Ayala, on behalf of VIVA Development. All of the speakers played a role in planning and rebuilding efforts in the city and shared insight on the progress and commended residents and the entire community for their commitment to strengthening our community, beyond the tornado.

The new homes and clean-up in the Central Street corridor are clear signs of rebirth in that neighborhood with construction of the new Elias Brookings School in the background. With the assistance of federal, state and city investment, progress is being



made on several other key projects including plans for construction of a New South End Community Center at Mason Wight Park. Trees have been planted, parks rehabilitated, the Dryden Memorial School rehabilitated and many more signs of physical improvements since the tornado.

Beyond the critical response to the challenges brought on by the tornado, the Plan also provided a framework to advance other important community priorities throughout the City. Progress on these fronts is also evident in many ways including work in addressing educational and workforce training priorities; efforts to highlight our cultural assets including the designation of the Springfield Central Cultural District downtown; enhanced public safety programs; and cohesive and collaborative economic development initiatives to attract business and permanent jobs to the city.

While there is still much to be done, positive signs of revitalization are clear as organizations, businesses, and individuals work together and in partnership with City officials to continue to focus on Rebuild Springfield Plan priorities. The full plan is available on DevelopSpringfield's website at www.developspringfield.com.

The organization also announced the publication of the Rebuild Springfield Progress Report 2014. Developed in collaboration with many volunteers who participated in the Rebuild Springfield planning process, the Progress Report highlights many of the Plan's priorities. It is available online at www.developspringfield.com; in print at DevelopSpringfield offices at 1182 Main Street in Springfield; and it will be distributed in The Republican in Springfield on June 5. A Spanish language version will be available soon and distributed throughout the community and also online.

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About DevelopSpringfield

DevelopSpringfield was formed in 2008 as a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) corporation to advance development and redevelopment projects, to stimulate and support economic growth, and to expedite the revitalization process within the City of Springfield. The organization's board of directors includes representatives from the city, state, and local business community. The organization's mission is to help create conditions that encourage private development with a bricks-and-mortar focus and always with an eye toward understanding and meeting Springfield's unique and diverse redevelopment needs.