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CHA BOARD APPROVES ABLA AGREEMENT AND ROCKWELL PLAN; NEW JOB-TRAINING PROGRAM TO SERVE 200 CHA TEENS

Sullivan rehired as relocation monitor
May 20, 2003

The Chicago Housing Authority Board of Commissioners today approved the master development agreement for ABLA, a plan to fund redevelopment of Rockwell Gardens, and a new job-training program for teenagers. The Board also rehired former U.S. Attorney Thomas P. Sullivan as independent monitor of the relocation process for a second year.

CHA Chief Executive Officer Terry Peterson highlighted the board's actions in his opening remarks, saying, "Today's meeting pushes forward on a number of fronts: new development, job skills for young people, and our ongoing commitment to improve the relocation process. Day-by-day, our work continues and we're always grateful for the input and involvement of our residents and community leaders."

The Board approved the Master Development Agreement for ABLA, on Chicago's Near West Side, that will produce a total of 2,441 units of mixed-income housing, including 755 for public housing residents, 720 affordable units, and 966 market-rate units.

Last December, the Board selected LR Development to oversee ABLA's redevelopment, which was created with extensive community input. The Brooks Homes, which are part of ABLA, underwent complete rehab several years ago. Construction on the first phase for the new units is currently scheduled to begin in the spring of 2004.

"We're very excited to see the plans for ABLA moving forward," said ABLA LAC President Deverra Beverly.

Approximately 200 CHA teens will acquire job and life skills this summer as well as extra tutoring in reading, writing and math under a program approved by the CHA Board today. After School Matters, an independent, not-for-profit corporation will teach the teens to create a resume, fill out job applications, and prepare for job interviews. They will also get tips on personal money management, such as budgeting and banking.

The Board also authorized CHA to seek federal approval for a mixed-finance

plan for the first phase of redevelopment at Rockwell Gardens in the New West Community Area located on the city's west side. The Rockwell redevelopment plan calls for a total of 780 new mixed-income rental and for-sale housing units that will be built on and near the Rockwell site.