



NEWS RELEASE

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Local Community Redevelopment Project Wins Top State Award

Tallahassee, Fla. — The “Urban InFill Housing Development Program,” adopted in 2006 by the Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), has earned the state’s top honor as best Florida redevelopment project for its purchase, construction and reselling of nine homes to low- or moderate-income families. The project’s key goal is to create affordable housing and improve neighborhoods within the Boynton Beach Community.

The Boynton Beach CRA will be presented with the state’s highest award for successful redevelopment, the President’s Award, at the 2009 Florida Redevelopment Association (FRA) Annual Conference Oct. 29 in Orlando. The President’s Award recognizes and highlights Florida’s “best of the best” redevelopment projects as chosen by the outgoing FRA president each year.

“There were a lot of great candidates for this year’s President’s Award, but Boynton Beach distinguished itself with its exemplary dedication to creating affordable housing for residents in its community,” said Gary Rogers, 2008-2009 FRA president. “Boynton Beach’s Urban InFill project shows true commitment to redevelopment and its CRA deserves our highest recognition for its outstanding efforts.”

In an attempt to improve neighborhoods, the CRA began by purchasing six vacant lots from home owners and partnering with local non-profits to redevelop each lot. To make the homes affordable to buyers, the CRA sold the lots to different non-profits for \$10 each, but required design standards, affordability levels and a development timeline.

The newly-built homes all include three bedrooms, two baths, impact-glass windows, standing-seam metal roofs, granite countertops, stainless-steel appliances, washer-and-dryer units, an irrigation system, landscaping and a one-car garage. To date, nine homes have been constructed and sold back to low- to moderate-income families. The project not only has added new homes to the community, but it raised the value of surrounding homes, reduced illegal dumping and increased security. “Best of all, by reaching out to local non-profits and developers, the Urban Infill Housing Development Program can be mirrored by other community redevelopment agencies throughout the state,” said Rogers.

“I am proud of our team’s hard work in Boynton Beach and FRA’s recognition of the Urban Infill Housing Project,” said Lisa Bright, Executive Director of the Boynton Beach CRA. “It feels like we have won an Academy Award.”

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Founded in 1974, the FRA is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to assisting Florida professionals and volunteers in revitalizing their communities. FRA's mission is to provide a forum for its more than 300 members to share knowledge and common experiences regarding redevelopment opportunities and issues, encourage adoption of legal and financial tools and programs favorable to community redevelopment and serve as a statewide clearinghouse for redevelopment information.

The FRA Annual Conference will be held Oct. 28-30 at the new Hilton Orlando on International Drive. For more information about the awards program, annual conference registration or the Florida Redevelopment Association, contact Executive Director Carol Westmoreland at (850) 224-6779 or visit www.redevelopment.net.

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