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PRESS RELEASE

Mayor Gary McCarthy & AIK Property Group Announce Completed Vacant Property Rehab

Rehab work completed by graduates of City's Construction Workforce Initiative

SCHENECTADY – Mayor Gary McCarthy joined A.I.K. Property Group on Friday to announce the completed rehabilitation of a previously City-owned vacant property at 3330 Balltown Road. Graduates of Schenectady's Economic Opportunity Workforce Initiative participated in the rehabilitation of the property which is now listed for sale.

Launched in the spring of 2018 by the City's Affirmative Action Officer, Ron Gardner, the Workforce Initiative includes a Craft Skills Job Training Program for income-qualified residents at SUNY Schenectady's College & Career Counseling Center (SUNY CCCC), as well as a Construction Management Training and Business Development course for local MWBE firms at the New York State Association of General Contractors (AGC).

"This announcement today is the culmination of multiple City programs working cohesively with community partners to revitalize distressed property, create new homeowners, and strengthen economic opportunity in our City," **Mayor McCarthy** said. "An incredible amount of work went into this success story today and I want to truly thank everyone who took part in this effort to make it all possible."

A.I.K. Property Group purchased the vacant property from the City in March of 2019 as part of the Mayor's HOMES Program (Homeownership Made Easy in Schenectady), which is designed to promote and facilitate homeownership in Schenectady. The company then worked with graduates from the City's Workforce Initiative to do a complete rehabilitation of the distressed property.

"Too often home ownership has become more difficult for working and middle-class families to obtain," said **Pamela Swanigan, Director of Business Development, A.I.K. Property Group**. "By breathing life back into these houses, we are able to create value to a new family and a community. Mayor McCarthy and the City's staff have been a blessing by joining us on this journey to help our neighbors achieve the American Dream of homeownership."

The Craft Skills Job Training Program is a free 125-hour course at SUNY CCCC open to income-qualified residents which upon completion provides students with their OSHA 10, OSHA 30, and NCCER certifications. The six-month Construction Management Training Program for small and emerging MWBE firms is taught by industry leaders and covers topics such as business and project management, accounting, insurance, estimating, and field operations.

Since the programs launch in the spring of 2018, 56 students have completed the Craft Skills Job Training Program at SUNY CCCC, and 15 small businesses have completed the Construction Management Training Program with AGC.

"We are incredibly proud of the success our program has had teaching skills and providing workforce opportunities for local residents in the community, said **Ron Gardner, the City of Schenectady's Affirmative Action Officer**. "This is just one example of that and I look forward to continuing to build upon our programs success to create additional workforce opportunities that also help to revitalize our neighborhoods."