



Gary R. McCarthy  
Mayor

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### Press Release

## *Mayor McCarthy Announces Success of Schenectady's HOMES Program*

### *Over \$2.5 million in Owner Occupied Homes Since July 2013*

SCHENECTADY Mayor Gary R. McCarthy today was joined by City officials and other Home Ownership Made Easy in Schenectady (HOMES) partners to announce the success of the program. Since July 2013, over forty former City-owned properties are now owner occupied homes, encompassing over two and half million dollars in value.

“In the past several years, we changed the way we sell City owned property and implemented a deliberate, professional system that promotes owner occupancy,” said Mayor Gary McCarthy. “Improving owner occupancy rates helps improve neighborhoods and we are dedicated to helping people find the best path to home ownership and opportunity. The HOMES program improves quality of life in our City and we are proud of its continued success.”

Officials spoke in front of 955 Helderberg Avenue, recently purchased by Schenectady small business owner Everado Sosa-Mendoza. In 2010 Sosa-Mendoza’s family and he decided to start their own business and opened a small Mexican grocery store, La Mexicana at 1759 State Street. One year later, Mr. Sosa-Mendoza and his family expanded the store to include a successful neighborhood restaurant that serves traditional Mexican food.

“I am a hard worker and enjoy taking on different projects. I saw that this house was for sale, and thought that it would be great to fix up this home and move my family here,” said Everado Sosa-Mendoza. “We are excited and thankful that the city agreed to sell us the house, and I am looking forward to improving this home and becoming a part of this neighborhood with my family.”

\*More\*

“Working with the City to market properties for prospective buyers was a great experience. Home ownership is an amazing opportunity for families and the City’s HOMES program really helps buyers find the right opportunity for them,” said Vicki Fobare, Real Estate Agent with Sterling Homes and the listing agent for 955 Helderberg Avenue.

This Sunday from 11:00a.m.-3:00 p.m., over a dozen open houses will take place throughout the City as part of the Home Ownership Made Easy in Schenectady (HOMES) Open House Weekend. This provides buyers a chance to see the variety of opportunities available. HOMES partners are available to help buyers through the purchasing process including educating them on first time buyer grants and other valuable programs.

The award winning HOMES program started out with 9 partners (Key Bank, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Blake, the Schenectady City School District, the Gazette, NBT Bank, U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Legere Restorations, SRG Architects, Open Stage Media) and continues to bring in additional partners (NBT Bank, Greater Capital District Association of Realtors, CDTA, Prospect Lending, Coldwell Banker, SONYMA, Trustco, The Home Depot, Creating Why Media, Capital District Community Loan Fund, NYSHCR, Schenectady County Habitat for Humanity, Community Land Trust of Schenectady, Better Neighborhoods Inc, Homestead Funding, M&T Bank, Miranda Real Estate Group, Inc, CM Fox Realty, SEFCU).

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