

May 12, 2008 - Rep Slaughter Joins Ground Breaking Ceremony at Crescent Village

FOR
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington, DC – Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee, today participated in the ground breaking ceremony for ten new subsidized homes in Crescent Village. Rep. Slaughter was joined by Marlies Weslowski, Executive Director of the Matt Urban Center, Deputy Mayor Donna Brown, Buffalo Common Council President David Francayk, Louis Paonessa, New York Power Authority Community Relations Manager, and members of the Masjid Zakariya Mosque.

“This ground breaking marks the next major step in our journey to transform the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood into a safe, thriving, community asset,” said Rep. Slaughter.

Rep. Slaughter secured \$464,000 in federal funding to demolish derelict houses in 16 square blocks of the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood, now known as Crescent Village. The demolition was the first step of the Crescent Village Project, a collaborative effort between the Matt Urban Center, the City of Buffalo, the Masjid Zakariya Mosque and the local community to redevelop the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood. Building the ten new homes is the next step.

“The Crescent Village Project is one of the biggest revitalization projects ever undertaken in Buffalo’s Eastside," Slaughter continued. "And, I am so proud to have helped residents and community groups rebuild our neighborhood, literally from the ground up.”

BACKGROUND:

Rep. Slaughter secured \$464,000 in federal funding in 2006 to demolish approximately 35 derelict houses in the 16 block Crescent Village neighborhood. The abandoned houses often became staging grounds for drugs and violence, lowering property values and hampering past redevelopment attempts. Clearing these lots set the stage for new development, like the construction of these ten new homes, to revitalize the neighborhood.

Additionally, Rep. Slaughter arranged for four energy efficient appliances, a washer, dryer, refrigerator, and stove, to be installed in each new house under a program administered by the New York Power Authority. This will save purchasers thousands in the cost of the house, while reducing their utility consumption, and benefitting the environment. Moreover, no taxpayer dollars subsidized this donation. Rather the program is paid for by oil companies who in the 1970s and 1980s were caught violating federal price controls and ordered to fund programs in each state to increase energy efficiency.

In total 80 houses will either be constructed or repaired as part of the Crescent Village Project, including 11 homes which are being built by private individuals using their own money. This particular private-sector effort has been spearheaded by members of the local Masjid Zakariya Mosque who took their Imam's call to heart and began a drive to live and invest in the same neighborhood where they worship for the good of the entire community.

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