



CITY OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Mayor
Thomas M. Menino

For Immediate Release:
March 20, 2008

For More Information Contact:
Press Office, 617 635-4461

Mayor, BHA Applaud HUD Hope VI Funding to Redevelop Washington Beech

Mayor Thomas M. Menino is extremely proud to announce that U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Alphonso Jackson today awarded the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) a \$20 million grant to support the redevelopment of the nearly 60-year-old Washington Beech public housing complex in Roslindale into an attractive mixed-income community. Including this grant, BHA has been awarded four HOPE VI Revitalization grants.

“This is an exciting day, not only for the residents of Washington Beech, but for the entire neighborhood of Roslindale and City of Boston,” Mayor Menino said. “I want to applaud those here in Boston who worked so hard on the application process and I want to generously thank HUD for believing as I do that this is a worthy project.”

The redevelopment of Washington Beech has been an important priority for Mayor Menino, the BHA, and the residents who live in the development. HUD’s HOPE VI Revitalization grant will enable BHA to demolish the 266-unit development and replace it with 139 public housing units and 126 affordable rental units. The redevelopment plan also includes 71 affordable homes for purchase.

“This funding not only gives cities the resources to build quality affordable housing in these communities, it also improves the quality of life of the residents who live in the public housing,” HUD Secretary Jackson said. “I’m glad Boston will once again use HOPE VI funds to transform neighborhoods and lives.”

Working closely with the Washington Beech tenants as partners, BHA began the extensive planning and application process months ago. HUD recently announced the availability of HOPE VI funding for the revitalization of distressed public housing

throughout the nation. The HOPE VI funding process is highly competitive. BHA was selected from a pool of 29 applications HUD received from public housing authorities (PHAs) across the country.

“Washington Beech is a family housing development that has long deserved and needed a complete overhaul due to its age and deteriorating systems,” said BHA Administrator Sandra B. Henriquez. “We are excited about the prospect of redeveloping this complex.”

As the actual renovations get started, BHA will pay relocation and reoccupancy costs for residents as needed. Affected residents can relocate to other public housing or receive a Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) to subsidize their rent in privately owned housing. Relocated residents are given the opportunity to move back to the newly constructed units. Alternatively, if residents choose not to return to public housing, they may keep their voucher. In addition, relocated residents will get job training and other support services under the Community and Supportive Services component of the HOPE VI grant.

###