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PRESS RELEASE

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PHA FINALIZES *FRAMEWORK STRATEGY FOR REDEVELOPMENT*

The Peoria Housing Authority (PHA), the Farnsworth Group, and Gensler are pleased to announce that the *Framework Strategy for Redevelopment* has been finalized and will be released to the public on Wednesday, March 18, 2015. The *Framework* will be available at all five (5) Peoria Public Library branches, as well as online at www.peoriahousing.org/framework-strategy.

The *Framework* is a data- and metric-driven document that highlights areas of opportunity in Peoria County, which is PHA's service area. Areas of opportunity may include sections of the county that contain high quantity or high quality amenities (or both). The Peoria Housing Authority plans to use this document to determine areas of Peoria County in which we can provide more affordable housing choice.

In 2014, the Peoria City Council and Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) separately asked the PHA to create a document that showed Taft Homes' redevelopment in a larger context. Additionally, HUD asked that the PHA look for ways to deconcentrate poverty and promote racial/ethnic integration, both by-products of offering more affordable housing choices.

Initially, the PHA asked staff members to create this document, specific to Taft Homes; however, it quickly became clear that our organization needed a document that outlined sections of our service area that contained high quantity and quality of amenities that would provide for a higher quality of life. The PHA contracted the Farnsworth Group Inc., a national engineering and architecture firm with a Peoria office, to oversee the project. The Farnsworth Group subcontracted Gensler, a global architecture and urban planning firm with a Chicago office, to create the document given the resources at their disposal and their expertise in the field.

(1/2)





During the public comment process, the compilation team—comprised of PHA, Farnsworth, and Gensler—received over 500 comments regarding the *Framework*. Due to the enhanced public participation, the PHA made several changes to the document, including the addition of a ‘Frequently Asked Questions’ section to address common public comments. The team is now satisfied with the outcome and looks forward to sharing the document with the community.

(2/2)

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