



OFFICE OF MAYOR VIRG BERNERO
124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE – NINTH FLOOR
LANSING, MI 48933

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, August 23, 2017

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Demolition Kicks Off Walnut Park Apartments Project on Historic School for the Blind Campus

(LANSING) – Mayor Virg Bernero will join The Whitsett Group (TWG) development team and other stakeholders tomorrow morning for the launch of the \$12.5 million Walnut Park Apartments project, which will include eight market rate and 64 affordable housing units on the historic campus of the former Michigan School for the Blind. Demolition of the old Auditorium building, which has been vacant and deteriorating since 1995, will commence immediately following the press conference to make way for the new four-story, 106,500 square foot structure.

Earlier this year the Walnut Park Apartments project was awarded Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA). These credits are enabling Cinnaire, the Lansing-based community development finance organization, to provide \$9.7 million of equity for Walnut Park Apartments. Cinnaire is also providing a \$2.3 million permanent loan. Fifth Third Bank is providing a \$9.3 million construction loan. Based in Indianapolis and specializing in multi-family developments, TWG also plans to transform the historic Abigail building on the School for the Blind campus into affordable apartment units for seniors.

WHO: Mayor Virg Bernero
Tony Knoble, TWG President
Earl Poleski, MSHDA Executive Director
Mark McDaniel, Cinnaire President and CEO
City Councilmember Jessica Yorko, Fourth Ward
Bob Johnson, Lansing Planning and Neighborhood Development
Other Community Leaders and Neighborhood Residents

WHAT: Auditorium Demolition – Walnut Park Apartments Project

WHERE: Former Michigan School for the Blind Campus – 635 W. Willow Street

WHEN: Thursday, August 24, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

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