

GOVERNOR PATRICK CELEBRATES TEMPLE LANDING RIBBON CUTTING IN NEW BEDFORD

Project created 173 units of affordable housing, more than 200 jobs for New Bedford

NEW BEDFORD – Friday, October 28, 2011 -- Governor Deval Patrick today joined state and local elected officials in New Bedford to celebrate the grand opening of the Temple Landing housing development. Thanks to the support of more than \$10 million from President Obama's Recovery Act and \$1 million from the Patrick-Murray Administration, the project has renovated and created 173 units of affordable housing and more than 200 jobs for New Bedford.

"Investing in affordable housing is critical to growing the Massachusetts economy and strengthening our communities," said Governor Patrick. "This project is the result of an excellent public-private partnership that transformed this property into a safe, attractive and affordable housing location that will be a boon to the region."

The project received \$10.4 million in funding from President Obama's Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Exchange program, as part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, and \$1 million from Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) Capital Improvement and Preservation Fund.

"Temple Landing is an example of an investment in affordable housing that has successfully created jobs and will spur additional community and economic development in a Gateway City," said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray, chair of the Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness. "We thank our partners in local, state and federal government as well as the private sector for working together to see this project through fruition."

"A vibrant neighborhood has been reestablished in New Bedford's West End. This will positively impact generations to come," said Mayor Scott W. Lang.

"Neighborhoods are the fabric that bind people of all backgrounds together," said Senator Mark Montigny. "The funding that was secured for this project will continue to revitalize the community and bolster growth in the City of New Bedford. When government invests in the empowerment of people not only do individual lives and communities improve, but there is a multiplier effect, that many others will benefit from."

"Among the great achievements of this project, is the reconnection of the roads and sidewalks between the former United Front development and the surrounding neighborhoods," said Representative Antonio Cabral. "We are one city and today neighbors isolated from each other have been reconnected. That's a great day for New Bedford."

"I think it's apparent to anyone who's driven down Kempton Street that this is a new day," said Representative Christopher Markey. "United Front is a thing of the past. What you see now is the culmination of the efforts of a lot of dedicated, thoughtful people that care about New Bedford. It is possible to have safe affordable housing that's not disconnected from the larger community, and I think Temple Landing is a prime example of that."

After acquiring the property in 2008, the Preservation of Affordable Housing established a public-private partnership among the city of New Bedford, the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), MassHousing, United Front Development Corporation, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, JP Morgan Chase and Unum to see the project through.

The site of Temple Landing was formerly United Front Homes, a 1970's urban renewal project that in recent years suffered from inadequate capital and flaws in the initial design. The newly renovated property has transformed the site's functionality, safety and connection to the surrounding community.

Today's celebration at Temple Landing highlights the Patrick-Murray Administration's commitment to investing in Gateway Cities like New Bedford. The Administration has implemented the following strategy to make all of the state's 24 Gateway communities centers of economic activity:

- Provide long-term investments in education, innovation and infrastructure, with special attention to the growth potential of each city's entrepreneurs and small businesses.
- Leverage the potential of each community's distinctive assets, including their educational, medical and cultural institutions and their historic buildings and neighborhoods.
- Connect Gateway Cities to other local, state and global centers of innovation and economic activity.

In keeping with this strategy, the Patrick-Murray Administration has made the following Gateway City investments: more than \$1 billion in active construction contracts through the Massachusetts Department of Transportation; \$13.5 million in Gateway City Parks grants for projects in 24 cities; more than \$105 million in public safety grants for police and fire departments and non-profit agencies to maintain staffing levels and combat violence, and more than \$17 million in workforce training funding since 2007.