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Housing Authority of Pittsburgh converting Allegheny Dwellings into mixed-income community

By Bob Bauder



The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh announced the start of construction Wednesday on the \$24.4 million conversion of a crime-plagued North Side housing project into new townhouses and apartments available to renters in all income brackets.

The authority previously demolished six barracks-style buildings housing 97 apartments in one section of Allegheny Dwellings at Henderson Street and Sandusky Court in Fineview. Plans call for the construction of 65 townhouses and apartments on the site and along nearby Federal Street.

Forty-seven of the units will be available to low-income tenants

with the remainder being offered at market rates.

"We're excited about this project and hopefully what it's going to do to build bridges between the Dwellings and Fineview," said Joanna Deming, executive director of the Fineview Citizens Council.

Downtown-based Trek Development and Allies and Ross Management and Development Corp., a housing authority subsidiary, are developing the site. Rothschild Doyno Collaborative is the architect and Mistick Construction is the contractor. The project is being funded through \$5.6 million in low-income housing tax credits and \$18.8 million in loans.

Built on the site of a former quarry between 1939 and 1944, Allegheny Dwellings was among a series of public housing projects built during the Great Depression designed to eliminate slum housing in Pittsburgh. The complex featured 272 apartments in buildings situated on three terraces along Sandusky Court, Letsche Street and Belleau Drive.

"It's changing the face of public housing," said authority Executive Director Caster D. Binion during a ground breaking ceremony on Sandusky Court. "We're proud to say the residents are part of this process, and they're working on this site."