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CAMBA/CAMBA Housing Ventures, Inc. Dedicate New 99-Unit Supportive Housing Development for the Disabled and Formerly Homeless in Brooklyn

CAMBA & CAMBA Housing Ventures, Inc. (CHV) dedicated yesterday their new building with a ribbon cutting ceremony on the site of The Anna Gonzalez Apartments, a new and affordable 99 unit permanent supportive housing development located at 1013 Broadway/880 Willoughby, Brooklyn NY 11221 in the Bushwick district of Brooklyn. The building was dedicated to Anna Gonzalez, the former Chairwoman of Community Board 4, currently and the Director of Hope Gardens Multi-service Center, who provided critical support to the project. The Anna Gonzalez Apartments is part of the Mayor's New Housing Marketplace Plan and Uniting for Solutions Beyond Shelter, the City's policy planning initiative to bring together the public, nonprofit, and business sectors in a coordinated effort to end homelessness in New York City.

Supportive housing is defined by the Corporation for Supportive Housing, a national non-profit that finances and advocates for the development of supportive housing, as a successful, cost-effective combination of affordable housing with services that help people facing the challenge of homelessness to live more stable, productive lives.

Designed by the architectural firm of Oaklander Coogan & Vitto, the new and attractive Anna Gonzalez Apartments provide permanent affordable housing and supportive services for 99 formerly homeless and low-income working individuals. The building is a successful mix of tenants who earn no more that 50% of Area Median Income, formerly homeless working tenants or individuals living with HIV/AIDS or a mental health diagnosis. CAMBA staff provides on-site case management services, group facilitation and recreational activities.

All of the units at The Anna Gonzalez Apartments are fully furnished and beautifully appointed studio apartments with private bathrooms, kitchenettes and hardwood floors. The Anna Gonzalez Apartments are located close to major public transportation and neighborhood amenities. Twenty-four hour front desk coverage is provided and there is an outdoor garden and patio for tenant use.

Central Brooklyn Community Services (CBCS) was the initial project developer. The Anna Gonzalez Apartments has a total development budget of \$15.642 million, including \$6.047 million from New York State Homeless Housing and Assistance Corporation, Homeless Housing and Assistance Program; \$5.809 million from New York City Department of Housing & Preservation (HPD), Supportive Housing Loan Program; and \$3.786 million in tax credit equity through Enterprise Community Investment.

"Developments, like the Anna Gonzalez Apartments, that provide low-income New Yorkers, including the disabled and formerly homeless, with on-site case management services, group facilitation and recreational activities can help residents achieve their goals and end the cycle of homelessness. They are a great example of what can be accomplished when City and State agencies, and organizations such as CAMBA, work together in creative ways to build affordable housing," said Abby Jo Sigal, Vice President of Enterprise and Director of the New York office. "This project takes us one step closer to fulfilling Enterprise's Billion Dollar Promise to invest \$1 billion for affordable housing in New York City and is a testament to our commitment to working to make sure that every New Yorker has a place to call home."

In May 2007, CHV officially assumed the role as project partner and operator. Social Service Funding is provided by New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and New York City Department of Homeless Services.

Speakers included:

Joanne M. Oplustil
Executive Director
CAMBA/CAMBA Housing Ventures, Inc.

Marty Markowitz
Brooklyn Borough President

Councilmember Diana Reyna
NYC District 34

Abby Jo Sigal
VP and New York Director
Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.

Tim O'Hanlon
HPD Assistant Commissioner
NYC HPD Special Needs Division

David Szary
Project Manager
NYS Homeless Housing and Assistance Program

George Nashak
Deputy Commissioner for Adult Services
Department of Homeless Services

Ramon Velasquez
Tenant, The Anna Gonzalez Apartments

Special Remarks

Willie Wren

Anna Gonzalez

ABOUT CAMBA & CAMBA HOUSING VENTURES INC.

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Founded in 1977, CAMBA is one of Brooklyn's largest community-based social service organizations, with a budget of approximately \$63 million and a diverse staff of more than 1,200 employees. CAMBA annually provides services to 35,000 individuals and families in six core areas: Economic Development, Education and Youth Development, Family Support Services, Housing Services and Development, HIV/AIDS Services and Legal Services.

CAMBA Housing Ventures, Inc., is an affordable housing development company affiliated with CAMBA, is the developer of the project. Its mission is to support vital mixed-income neighborhoods through the development of permanent affordable housing of high-quality for a diverse resident population.

CAMBA Housing Ventures, Inc., is an affordable housing development corporation launched by CAMBA, one of Brooklyn's most comprehensive providers of social services, serving over 35,000 individuals each year. With a goal of developing at least 1,000 units by the year 2015, CAMBA Housing Ventures intends to work closely over the coming years with the City and other public and private players to implement the Mayor's plan to end homelessness in New York City.