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MIDTOWN DEVELOPER TO DEMOLISH SERIOUSLY BLIGHTED PROPERTIES

Powers & Associates to Clear 37 Blighted Residential Units

Harrisburg, PA – Midtown developers Powers & Associates today announced that it has purchased dozens of seriously blighted residential properties in the Midtown area and intends to demolish the structures as soon as possible. The cleared site will be made available for future development, with it temporarily used for surface parking for HACC-Midtown Center students.

Powers & Associate President John Tierney said his company had been in negotiations with property owner Paul Peffley for many months, and will close on the thirty-seven seriously blighted properties this week. Tierney said all but eight of the properties are currently occupied by weekly and in a few cases, monthly renters, who will be assisted in relocating to other housing. The area is bounded by N. 4th, Harris, Logan and Boyd Streets.

“These properties have structural, electrical, plumbing, vector and other problems that makes their repair or rehab prohibitively expensive,” said Tierney. “While this will cause some inconvenience for those currently residing in the units, as they will now have to move, continuing to house people in such substandard structures is unsafe, exploitive and not the way that Powers & Associates chooses to operate.”

Tierney said the company’s Midtown Master Plan, developed in conjunction with the City of Harrisburg in 2006, called for the acquisition of the site so that it could be developed for commercial or other purposes. The site is located in the northern quadrant of the planned Midtown academic campus, which is anchored on the west by the new HACC-Midtown Center, and to the east by HACC’s Community Center for Technology and the Arts, which is currently undergoing rehabilitation.

“While we’ll temporarily use the site for additional surface parking for students using the HACC facilities, “ Tierney said, “our long term goal is return the land to productive and economically-sound use as residential, commercial or retail space.”

Tierney said Powers & Associates is working with the properties’ previous owner to find new accommodations for their tenants. Demolition will begin as soon as the properties are vacated.