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Community Looks for Community-Oriented Developer in Announcement of Purchase Agreement for South Works Site

Chicago- After more than two decades of sitting vacant, the community is hopeful that the former U.S. Steel South Works site will have a new, community-oriented developer, now that Emerald Living and partner Barcelona Housing Systems, have signed a Purchase and Sale Agreement (PSA).

“The Coalition is excited about working with the Emerald Living, Barcelona Housing Systems, and our public officials to develop a community-oriented and inclusive vision for the U.S. Steel South Works site. We look forward to a partnership to ensure the success of the development for both the developer and community.” –Amalia NietoGomez, coordinator of the Coalition for a South Works CBA and Executive Director of the Alliance of the SouthEast (ASE).

“Our DNA is there. We see the opportunity for families of steel works who still live in the area, to live, grow and prosper in a place where our ancestors (steel workers) gave so much.” –Yvette Moyo, Publisher of *South Shore Current* magazine and Associate Director of Real Men Charities Inc. Moyo’s family has lived in South Shore for 53 years.

“We’re looking forward to working with our local public officials and the site developer in establishing a transparent, win-win relationship to benefit the current community residents, congregations, and businesses.” –Anne Holcomb, member of Environment, Transportation, Health, and Open Space (ETHOS) and South Shore resident for 6 years.

“We look forward to the incoming jobs that will benefit the longstanding residents of the 7th and 10th wards as well as the opportunity to live, work, spend and ‘grow’ with this new robust community development.” –Edreick Justice, member of Crossroads Collaborative and coalition member.

The new development will have a mix of retail, residential, and a manufacturing plant for pre-fabricated housing. The development is expected to include up to 20,000 homes, green spaces, renewable energies, and common social areas. (More details are on the website: www.NewSouthWorks.com)

“Generations of families have built and anchored this community. Developmental and economic growth are coming. These same families are in danger of not being able to afford to stay. A CBA provides tools, education, training, employment opportunities plus affordable housing and tax relief for long-time residents.” –Estela O. Morales, member of St. Michael the Archangel parish and South Shore resident for 47 years.

The Coalition for a South Works CBA consists of local residents and 40+ community organizations- including churches, schools, non-profits, businesses, and block clubs from the southeast side. The Coalition is focused on community input and ensuring the local development benefits the community.

Coalition Members

- 79th/80th Essex Block Club
- Alliance of the SouthEast (ASE)
- Black United Fund of Illinois (BUFI)
- Blacks In Green (BIG)
- Centro de Trabajadores Unidos/ Immigrant Workers’ Project
- Chicago Rehab Network
- Christ Bible Church
- Claretian Associates
- Coalition for Equitable Community Development (CECD)
- Crossroads Collaborative
- Empowering South Shore
- Family Rescue
- Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference
- James H. Bowen High School
- Jeffery Manor Community Revitalization Council
- Metropolitan Family Services – Southeast Chicago
- Mind Influence Attitude Inc.
- New Sullivan Elementary School
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
- Pilgrim Baptist Church
- Praise Tabernacle
- Real Men Charities, Inc.
- Reclaiming South Shore for All
- SouthEast Side Block Club Alliance
- Southsiders Organized for Unity & Liberation (SOUL)
- St. Augustine College
- St. Michael the Archangel Parish
- The Law Project
- The Lights of Honor International (LHI)
- The Planning Coalition
- Trees Are Beautiful
- United Steelworker Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR)
- Veteran’s Park Improvement Association
- We Mean Green Community Gardens
- work2gether4peace.info

and more organizations!

Allies

- United Food and Commercial Workers Local 881