

F.R.E.E.D.O.M. Affiliates – TRDC/MTUL – Tulsa

TULSA COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION WINS TRAINING AWARD

AND \$15,000 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT COMPETITION

Tulsa, OK – On Monday, January 31 at the City of Tulsa, Tulsa Mayor Bob LaFortune will join the Metropolitan Tulsa Urban League, HUD, the Bank of Oklahoma, F.R.E.E.D.O.M. and Freddie Mac to launch the Genesis for Homeownership Initiative, which includes a request for the submission of proposals addressing affordable housing development in Tulsa. The Genesis Initiative will help faith-based and community grassroots organizations to build their capacity to develop and implement affordable housing development models, and effective homeownership and financial literacy programs.

Through this new initiative, the Metropolitan Tulsa Urban League, an affiliate of the National Urban League, will ask faith-based organizations to submit the proposals. Based on the analysis of the proposals, the Mayor, Urban League, HUD and Freddie Mac will announce the recipient of a \$15,000 grant during the Faith Based Empowerment and Training Conference, February 25-26 at OSU-Tulsa.

The Urban League and Freddie Mac will provide an opportunity for churches, other faith-based entities and community development organizations to strengthen their understanding of new and existing economic development strategies, affordable housing development, successful homeownership counseling, education, financial self-sufficiency counseling and develop joint collaborative strategies. The Genesis Initiative will also establish a coalition around the winning submission and two of the other top submissions creating an opportunity to follow through with a broad based supportive development model.

The Mayor and the City of Tulsa have made the elimination of blighted properties and the development of affordable housing a priority. In addition to the mobilization of local resources, the City is strongly supportive of the role the Urban League and faith-based institutions can play in this effort, particularly as it relates to affordable housing development, financial literacy and homeownership.

“I am pleased to be a part of this homeownership initiative. Throughout my Administration, we have worked to ensure that all citizens of Tulsa have the opportunity to realize the American dream of homeownership,” said Mayor LaFortune. “As Mayor, I’m calling on faith-based and community development organizations, the real estate and financial sectors and other groups involved in homeownership to help us work towards making the American dream a reality for all citizens.”

Freddie Mac, one of the nation’s largest investors in residential mortgages, provided the initial seed money for the development of this community based affordable housing development initiative.

F.R.E.E.D.O.M., a faith-based non-profit community development corporation that designs and implements development projects across the country, is providing oversight and technical assistance to present the charter conference for this event and judging the proposals.

Rev. G.C. McCutchen, Pastor, Mt. Zion Baptist Church said that this is an incredible collaborative effort for Tulsa. “As a member of the Urban League Board of Directors and a leader in Tulsa’s faith community, the Genesis Initiative can open the door of opportunity for affordable housing and homeownership for all people in this city.”