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JHA Groundbreaking for Phase 1 of North Midtown Neighborhood Scheduled for May 20

May 12, 2010 (JACKSON, MS) The City of Jackson and the Jackson Housing Authority will celebrate the groundbreaking of a multi-phase investment to provide healthy housing opportunities and contribute to neighborhood revitalization. The May 20th, 10 am groundbreaking is being held at the corner of Livingston Street and Lamar Street, one of the three project sites located in the North Midtown neighborhood near downtown Jackson. The ceremony marks the beginning of Phase 1 of a development planned as part of the North Midtown Neighborhood Master Plan. The Master Plan was completed last year by the neighborhood residents, the North Midtown Community Development Corporation and the Jackson Housing Authority.

The \$3.49 million project is comprised of 16 new sustainable housing units (8 duplexes), and includes additional site and infrastructure improvements. Funds for the project were made available through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The new 1,600 square foot, one and two story housing units being built in Phase 1 are sustainable, liveable, secure and economical. Some of the amenities include:

- DURABLE CONSTRUCTION
 - Deep Piling Foundations
 - Cementitious Siding
 - Tough Mississippi Brick Veneer
 - Painted Wood Wainscoting
 - External Serviced HVAC
 - Gutters and Downspouts
- ENHANCED SITE PLANNING
 - Family-Friendly and Social Sites
 - Front Off-Street Parking
 - Front and Rear Fenced Yards
 - Landscaping Buffers
 - Public Infrastructure Improvements
 - Secure Service Alleys
- ENERGY EFFICIENT / SUSTAINABLE
 - Thermal Aluminum Windows
 - Energy Star Appliances
 - Water-Conserving Fixtures
 - Solar Panel Energy Generation
 - Instant Gas Water Heaters
 - High Performance Walls and Attics
 - Insulated, Drained Crawl Spaces
 - Smart Meters provided by Entergy MS in partnership with Smart Synch
- LIVEABLE / FUNCTIONAL DESIGN
 - Open Flexible Floor Plans
 - Spacious Rooms
 - Eat In Kitchens
 - Roomy Front Porches
 - Natural Light and Ventilation

The project planning, by Duvall Decker Architects, P.A. with the Jackson Housing Authority, sought to include sustainability, energy-efficiency, durability and livability improvements while remaining economical. The project was competitively bid on March 11, 2010 with seven bidders. The low bidder and general contractor for the project is CRG Residential, LLC. The project is expected to create approximately 110 jobs during the 12 months of construction.

The Jackson Housing Authority and the project specify the contractor must comply with the Equal Opportunity requirements of Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968. This requires the contractor to employ local, low and very low income persons. The Housing Authority and the North Midtown Community Development Corporation have collected the resumes of over 40 able individuals. These resumes will be provided to the contractor as potential workers to employ.

"We're very excited about this new housing development and it's contribution to Jackson. In addition to providing needed durable, sustainable, affordable housing, we're pleased that the project will also provide new jobs in Jackson," said Ms. Sheila Jackson, Executive Director of the Housing Authority. "We're also proud to be building the first solar powered housing development in the state."

The Housing Authority of the City of Jackson, Mississippi (JHA) operates 164 units of Public Housing and 550 Housing Choice Vouchers, in addition to specialized vouchers for Veterans Assistance and families displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. JHA also offers a Family Self-Sufficiency Program, a HUD Certified Housing Counseling Program, a Network Neighborhood Program and administers in excess of one million dollars in Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Funds for the City of Jackson.

Duvall Decker Architects, P.A., a Jackson, MS based architecture and planning firm, has received numerous awards for design excellence. Duvall Decker's work consistently considers the public aspects of the built environment to produce buildings durable in both material and memory.

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For publication inquiries and materials for the Jackson Housing Authority's North Midtown Housing Project or Duvall Decker Architects, P.A., contact Cheryl Walton, Rogers Dunn, LLC, 601-713-1158 or visit the www.duvalldecker.com.

For information on the Jackson Housing Authority contact Sheila Jackson, Executive Director at 601-362-0885 or visit the website at www.jacksonhousing.org.

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