

Groundbreaking illustrates the power of organized people and organized money



On August 20th in east Baltimore, ReBUILD Johnston Square, BUILD and our development firm, ReBUILD Metro, celebrated breaking ground with our newest partners Ingerman and the Weinberg Foundation on a 60 unit, \$16.5 million affordable apartment building on the corner of Greenmount and Chase. Ms. Hammond, President of ReBUILD Johnston Square and BUILD Leader, chaired the action and welcomed all of our partners and the community and announced, “We are here as our NEXT STEP on our journey to rebuilding Johnston Square to serve as a model for all the goodness that occurs when we all lock arms and

organize together to REBUILD Baltimore. There is no stopping us!”



Ken Holt, Secretary, Maryland Housing & Community Development

Secretary of Maryland Housing and Community Development, Kenneth Holt, announced, “Together we will build hundreds of units in Johnston Square. I am here for the long game.” Long-time champion, Baltimore City

Housing and Community Development Commissioner, Michael Braverman, recommitted to ReBUILD Johnston Square’s \$130 million vision of rebuilding the entire neighborhood.



Michael Braverman, Baltimore City Housing & Community Development Commissioner



Mayor Jack Young, Comptroller Joan Pratt, Council President Brandon Scott, and Councilman Robert Stokes attended and pledged their continue support. At the end of the action, Mayor Young toured the site and make a no-nonsense commitment to clean up violent corners in the community. As leaders left the site for the day, a Department of Public Works crew pulled up to start their portion of the clean up to improve public safety.



The groundbreaking was a celebration of the power of organized people and organized money, focusing relentlessly and persistently around a common vision. For the past four years, ReBUILD Johnston Square/BUILD have organized neighbors, community institutions and partners by:

- building strong relationships,
- listening to residents and partners interests,
- researching,
- making a plan
- and then going into action

resulting in:

- reclaiming 20 vacant lots,
- developing an initial redevelopment plan,
- building a \$1.5 million park,
- and now launching a broader master plan.

The Rebuild Johnston Square team did a power analysis and knew it didn't have the power to rebuild on their own. They joined BUILD and then relentlessly organized with other BUILD members, ReBUILD Metro, Mt. Sinai Baptist Church and the 6th Branch. Not stopping, they built strong partnerships with Baltimore Arts Realty Corporation, St. Frances Academy and the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation. Not stopping, they built strong allies in Parks and People, Johnston Square Elementary, and Open Works. And Rebuild Johnston Square is winning. Together we will ReBUILD Baltimore.

Congratulations to Regina and Keith Hammond and the Rebuild Johnston Square's team; Pastor Calvin Keene, Sean Closkey and ReBUILD Metro's team; Pastor Ray Cotton and Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Scott Goldman and Sixth Branch; and Terrell Williams, BUILD Associate Organizer and Co Director of Turnaround Tuesday. We recognize and thank all of our partners in continuing to organize with us to make Johnston Square more like the world as it should be - a safe, thriving community where children can play, elders can walk the streets, residents can call home and others can choose to live. We thank Mayor Young, Comptroller Pratt, Councilman Stokes, Council President Scott, Secretary Holt and Commissioner Braverman for their leadership.



Press Coverage: <https://thedailyrecord.com/2019/08/20/16m-project-reveals-complexity-of-building-affordable-housing/>



State and City Housing officials and developer Ingerman join community members Regina Hammond and Pastor Calvin Keene in groundbreaking for 60 affordable housing units at Greenmount & Preston Sts.