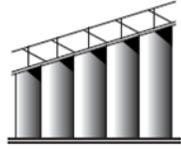




MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN



BURA
Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency



EVANS
BANK



The Land Bank
Buffalo Erie Niagara Land Improvement Corporation



**MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN AND THE CITY OF BUFFALO
EVANS BANK, BENLIC, BURA, MMB REALTY
PARTNER TO BUILD AND SELL UP TO 10 HOMES IN EAST BUFFALO**
*Developers encouraged to participate in innovative public-private partnership
creating workforce housing on Adams Street*

July 22, 2022

BUFFALO, N.Y. – An innovative public-private partnership between Mayor Byron W. Brown and the City of Buffalo Office of Strategic Planning, Evans Bank, Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency (BURA), the Buffalo Erie Niagara Land Improvement Corporation (BENLIC) and MMB Realty will build and market up to ten single family homes on Adams Street in East Buffalo.

The Adams Street Infill Housing Initiative creates new housing on Adams Street in East Buffalo on city-owned lots. The city is providing 24 lots on Adams Street. Twelve parcels were created from those vacant lots for housing infill, and the remaining two parcels will be set aside for creative community use projects.

Homebuilders are needed to build the houses on the parcels. The Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued on July 13th and is available on the BENLIC website.

“We are pleased to join this partnership with Evans Bank and under Dave Nasca’s (NAS-CA’S) leadership,” said Buffalo Mayor Byron W. Brown, who is also chairman of the Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency. “The city’s participation in this partnership is a continuation of our work to reactivate vacant lots in East Buffalo and throughout the city.”

Evans Bank is providing the financing for the construction of the homes. The new homes will be located near the Westminster Commons, which is an 84-unit mixed-use development. Evans Bank opened a branch in the commons last year at 418 Adams Street. The addition of the infill homes will add to the development already in progress in that area.

“When we opened our Westminster Commons branch, we made it clear that we intended to make a difference in the neighborhood,” said David Nasca, president and CEO of Evans Bank. “Within a few miles of the Adams Street location, Evans has invested over \$30 million in 100 affordable housing units, a homeless shelter, and a fresh food grocery store in an area where the need is great. This innovative initiative will continue those efforts and bring new single-family homes to East Buffalo.”

BENLIC will oversee development of the properties on the parcels. Construction of the homes is planned for this fall once the developer has been selected.

“We are working to provide new homeownership opportunities to those families who have been waiting the longest, have been hit the hardest, and deserve it the most,” said Jocelyn Gordon, Executive Director of BENLIC. “We hope this partnership effort becomes a model that can be replicated in neighborhoods throughout Buffalo in need of new, quality homes.”

MMB Realty, a Buffalo-based women and minority-owned real estate brokerage company, will manage the sale of the completed homes. The sales will be performed via lottery for qualified buyers.

“One of MMB’s goals, as a real estate brokerage, is to help improve our communities through homeownership,” said Rosalind Burgin, co-owner of MMB Realty. “Through our homebuyer workshops, we know some buyers need and prefer to live in the city. However, the lack of housing inventory makes it hard to meet their needs. The Adams Street Initiative will help us fill the need for suitable housing and help create generational wealth in East Buffalo.”

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