



UCDC Renovates Former Drug House For Atlanta Police Officer In Partnership With Fulton County D.A.

ATLANTA—The University Community Development Corporation (UCDC) has transformed a former drug house into a new home for an Atlanta Police Officer in a partnership with the Fulton County District Attorney's "Neighborhood Fresh Start" initiative.

UCDC acquires, rehabilitates, constructs and facilitates the development of affordable housing for moderate and low-income families in the neighborhoods adjacent to the Atlanta University Center.

The home at 503 Atwood Street in southwest Atlanta was seized in January 2000 by the D.A.'s Office through the Community Prosecution Program, which works by first forfeiting the property and then by moving a police officer into the home to live rent-free for roughly one year. At the end of that time, the house will be sold to a low to moderate-income family. The program's goal is to approach the problem of illegal drug activity systemically rather than by simply repeatedly arresting offenders.

UCDC joined the D.A.'s Office in making the house habitable and the community safe again. This is the first of several homes that UCDC will be renovating under the "Neighborhood Fresh Start" initiative.

"One of the primary goals of UCDC is to clean-up neighborhoods and bring a sense of safety back to the community around the Atlanta University Center by taking a property such as this one and renovating it and turning it into a high-quality affordable home," says Pete Hayley, UCDC executive director. "This is one of several houses we have acquired and redeveloped around the Atlanta University Center over the last 12 years and is representative of our ongoing renovation and new housing construction we have underway."

UCDC teamed with Norwood Construction and DKS Project Management to renovate the Atwood Street house from top to bottom. The three-bedroom, two-bath wood-framed house received a new roof, siding, flooring and kitchen, and electrical and plumbing upgrades. New Horizons provided the landscaping around the house. The development team completed the renovation in a record 30 days.

Neighborhood Fresh Start's Program Partners include the Office of Mayor Shirley Franklin, Atlanta City Council, Atlanta Housing Code Enforcement, Atlanta Neighborhood Planning Units, Atlanta Police Department, Capitol City Bank, Citizens' Advisory Board of Zone 4, City of Atlanta Bureau of Neighborhood Conservation, City of Atlanta Housing Department, City of Atlanta Zoning Department, the Fulton/Atlanta Land Bank Authority, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Fannie Mae, H.J. Russell & Company, the MLK Merchants' Association, Office of Pardons & Paroles, Office of the United States Attorney, the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta, West End Strategic Group, and Zion Hill Baptist Church.

The University Community Development Corporation is a not-for-profit corporation that works under the Atlanta University Center Inc. umbrella. UCDC acquires, rehabilitates, constructs and facilitates the development of affordable housing for moderate and low-income families in the neighborhoods adjacent to the Atlanta University Center, the world's largest consortium of historically African American colleges and universities. For more on UCDC, visit www.ucdc.aucenter.edu.



Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard (2nd from left) dedicated a former drug house to Atlanta Police Beat Officer Harry Stephens on Saturday, May 17th. **University Community Development Corporation (UCDC)** was the project developer. Pictured from left: Robert Norwood, IV, Norwood Construction; District Attorney Howard; Officer Stephens; Wanda Dallas, D.A.'s Office; Pete Hayley, UCDC; and David Scott, DKS Project Management