



News Release

For immediate release:

October 9, 2012

Contact:

Edward Lowery, Director

Dept. of Economic Sustainability

(561) 233-3602

13 New Homes Completed in Westgate Through County's Disaster Recovery Program

Construction has been completed on 13 new affordable homes in the Westgate community of unincorporated West Palm Beach. The project was made possible through a partnership of Palm Beach County's Department of Economic Sustainability, Neighborhood Renaissance, Inc., Florida Community Loan Fund and the Westgate/Belvedere Homes Community Redevelopment Agency.

Palm Beach County provided more than \$2 million toward the \$3.7 million infill housing project from the 2005 Disaster Recovery Initiative (DRI), a program established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and administered through Florida's Department of Economic Opportunity.

The county contracted with local nonprofit Neighborhood Renaissance to acquire properties in Westgate and build affordable single-family homes and duplexes to replace housing that was severely damaged by Hurricane Wilma in 2005. The three- and four-bedroom homes meet green building standards and contain energy-efficient features.

The DRI funds were designated by HUD to help cities, counties and states recover from natural disasters. The program has enabled the county to work with local housing agencies to replace and rehabilitate homes, improve drainage infrastructure, and construct hurricane hardening improvements to buildings as a result of damage sustained from Hurricane Wilma.

Neighborhood Renaissance will sell the replacement homes to persons of low- and moderate-income, in keeping with HUD's national objectives.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for October 11 at 10:30 a.m. at 2487 Hiawatha Avenue.

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Kim Ciklin
Special Projects Assistant
Department of Economic Sustainability
100 Australian Avenue, Suite 500
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
(561) 233-3671
(561) 656-7543 e-fax

DES Mission Statement...

"To advance community sustainability by increasing economic competitiveness and improving the elements that create a high quality of life for Palm Beach County's residents."