

RENEWAL



A POAH CHICAGO NEWSLETTER

Preservation and Renovation of Senior Housing in Harvey Heralded as “New Beginning”

“It’s a new beginning and a blessing to all my fellow tenants,” said George Ellis, a seven-year resident of the South Suburban Senior Housing Apartments, speaking at the residents’ celebration to mark the start of POAH’s preservation and rehabilitation of the 120-unit affordable housing complex in Harvey, IL.

POAH purchased the property on 155th Street along with five other buildings from the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago in 2019, including two additional properties in Harvey. When the purchase was made public, some in the community feared the buildings would no longer be exclusively for seniors or remain affordable. Today, thanks to POAH and its community partners, the South Suburban Apartments are not only remaining affordable and exclusively for seniors, but are also undergoing a \$15 million renovation, its first in 20 years.

“Our investment goals in Harvey are not only to ensure that the properties are well-maintained and affordable but most importantly, that the residents who live there are well-cared for,” said Bill Eager, Senior Vice President, POAH Midwest.

Heralding POAH’s investment, which ensures the affordability of the complex for 30 years, Harvey Mayor Christopher J. Clark said, “we expect it to do tremendous things to improve the lives of everyday people.” The project is expected to be completed in mid-2023.

The City of Harvey and POAH’s community partners, Cook County, Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) and CREA, provided financial assistance for the property’s renovation that got under way last spring.

Besides investing in affordable housing, the city of Harvey is working on constructing a new \$17 million transit-oriented apartment development next to City Hall and creating new infill housing. And in tandem with Cook County and the Southland Development Authority, the City is developing the Metals Hub, a collaborative network of metals machinery and equipment manufacturers committed to developing new businesses.

In August, Harvey was awarded \$20 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation for renovating the Harvey Transportation Center for Pace and Metra riders. The center at 147th Street and Sibley Blvd. is where 11 routes connect to employment centers like Amazon, UPS, and to the CTA’s 95th/Dan Ryan Red Line Station.



At the celebration of POAH's renovation and the plan for the renaissance of Harvey, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle added: "We are confident that the planning being done, and the investments being made by Mayor Clark and POAH, with the support of Cook County, the State of IL and the Southland Development Authority, we will continue to generate interest and investment in the south suburbs."

Also attending the event were Diane M. Shelley, Regional Administrator, HUD; Cook County Commissioner Deborah Sims; Aaron Gornstein, CEO, POAH; Adam Moore, Legislative Liaison, IHDA and many residents.