

PRESS RELEASE  
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**Landmark Agreement Assures Jobs & Economic Benefits  
for Local Residents, Minorities & Women**  
*Economic Inclusion Plan for State Center is first of its kind in Baltimore City*

Baltimore MD: Today, on the site the landmark redevelopment project, the development team signed a groundbreaking agreement with the nine adjacent community groups and leading clergy to maximize local hiring and the participation of minority, women and local businesses. The Economic Inclusion Plan (EIP), the first of its kind for Baltimore City, was created as part of the community-led process to redevelop the 28-acre site.

The signers of the agreement are Pastor Sheridan “Todd” Yeary of Union Baptist Church, representing Community Churches for Community Development (CCCD); Caroline Moore of Ekistics, LLC, for the development team; and, for the community, John E. Kyle, president of the State Center Neighborhood Alliance, Inc. A host of state, local and federal officials also attended the event in support of the project and EIP.

“Creating public-private partnerships to spur growth – in this case leveraging tens of millions in private investment – is an effective way that government can lay the foundation for job creation,” said Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown. “With today’s signing of this landmark Economic Inclusion Plan, the State Center project is a national model for community inclusion in smart growth development.”

“New jobs and economic opportunity must be our top priorities in these challenging times,” said Congressman Elijah Cummings. “This project brings both, and the plan for economic inclusion helps to ensure that every community member has the chance to participate in the rebuilding of his or her own neighborhood.”

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake said, “This project is critical to transforming the West Side of Baltimore back into the thriving, walkable community it once was – and reconnecting nine historic neighborhoods. It’s the kind of job-creating redevelopment we need to see all over our city – public-private partnerships that are thoughtfully conceived, while working hand-in-hand with the community. It’s gratifying to see our clergy, community and business coming together to create jobs.”

Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary Beverley K. Swaim-Staley reiterated, “The State Center project embodies the state’s commitment to robust, smart, transit-oriented growth in Maryland. This project also reflects MDOT’s core values, including the

department's commitment to engaging and working with the communities impacted by this project."

"The State Center project represents a continuation of our push to develop public-private partnerships in order to revitalize once vibrant neighborhoods throughout Baltimore City," said City Council President Bernard C. "Jack" Young. "Working with residents, the faith-based community and the development team, we will be able to create much-needed employment and economic opportunities for Baltimoreans."

Also representing CCCD, Rev. Dr. Alvin C. Hathaway added, "After five years of planning and negotiating throughout this process, we are thrilled to see the results of that labor: an agreement that brings real jobs and opportunity for our neighborhoods. This means new hope and a new future for these communities."

The EIP establishes goals for the participation of Minority/Women Owned and Locally Owned Businesses in the project's construction, design, architecture and engineering, and Workforce Inclusion Goals to ensure local hiring to ensure the "ongoing economic transformation" of the State Center area. The plan's creators hope it goes beyond just this project and toward "a cohesive and comprehensive... hiring modality that can be applicable for future development and construction projects."

"The community has come together around this once-in-a-generation chance to add jobs, opportunities and amenities to the surrounding neighborhoods," said John E. Kyle. "The development team's commitment to community inclusion during the past five years and continuing through today is leading to a plan that truly reflects our input, ideas and vision. We're ready to see shovels in the ground."

Caroline Moore, lead developer for the project, concluded by speaking about the collaborative process leading to today's signing: "From the start, diversity and inclusion have been two of our core values. I'm thrilled that we've gotten to this point and I hope we can set an example for other great projects around Baltimore. We can only rebuild our city by including community leaders."

### **Parties to the EIP**

Community Churches for Community Development is a local non-profit organization developed in response to the growing need for community-based advocacy as it relates to community economic development. Its founding member organizations include Union Baptist Church, Douglas Memorial Community Church, Pennsylvania Ave. AME Zion Church, Ark Church, Bethany Baptist Church, Enon Baptist Church, and Greater Harvest Baptist Church.

For over five years, the State Center Neighborhood Alliance, Inc. has been an integral part of the community involvement in the planning and implementation of the State Center project. The Alliance includes the Druid Heights Community Development Corporation, Heritage Crossing Residents Association, Historic Marble Hill Community Association, McCulloh Homes Resident Council, Madison Park Improvement Association, Midtown

Development Corporation, Mount Royal Improvement Association, Mount Vernon/ Belvedere Association, Pennsylvania Avenue Redevelopment Collaborative, Inc. (PARC), Seton Hill Association, United Baptist Missionary Convention & Auxiliaries, Inc. and Upton Planning Committee, Inc.

The State Center Development Team is headed by woman-led local firm Ekistics, LLC. Strong minority representation on the team is but one representation of its core values of diversity and inclusion. Each team member is committed to Baltimore's future and to bringing the vision and plan for State Center to fruition.

### **About State Center**

The State Center project will convert a dilapidated state-owned office complex into a mixed-use, 24/7 community with an intense focus on transit and environmentally conscious living. The public-private partnership, supported by a wide range of elected officials from former Governor Robert Ehrlich to Governor Martin O'Malley, will bring \$1 billion in private investment and hundreds of jobs to the community, and millions of dollars in taxes to the city and state for 28 acres that are now non-taxable. It serves to bring together and provide an economic boost to the nine historic neighborhoods in Baltimore City that currently surround the under-utilized site.