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City of Indianapolis
Bart Peterson, Mayor

City continues to support brownfield remediation projects

INDIANAPOLIS – In a continued effort to clean up and redevelop abandoned, contaminated properties, the city has recently awarded $45,282 in grants to four Indianapolis area organizations as a part of the City of Indianapolis’ Brownfield Grant/Loan Fund.

Brownfields are abandoned or underused properties where redevelopment is complicated by either real or perceived contamination. These areas are often former industrial sites such as plants, factories and gas stations.

The following organizations have received grants for brownfield remediation projects:

Cathedral Community Care, Inc., $14,900
A former construction company warehouse located at 5203 E. 32nd Street will be converted into the Rightturn Youth Center, which will focus on improving the skills, economic viability, health and welfare of families in the surrounding area.

Southeast Neighborhood Development Corporation, $16,150
Once home to the Advance Metals plating facility, this eight-parcel site located at 1821-1829 South Shelby Street will become the Pleasant Run Business Center, providing additional commercial space in the Fountain Square neighborhood.

United Northwest Area Development Corporation, $13,432
Eight parcels of land located in the 2400 block of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street will be developed into a 13,000 square foot retail center.

Concord Community Development Corporation, $800
As part of the Impact/Morris Street comprehensive plan, this former grocery store and multi-family residential site located at 1218-1230 South Meridian will be incorporated into commercial development.

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In April 2002, Mayor Peterson launched the new brownfield grant program, providing $300,000 to aid community organizations in financing the redevelopment of brownfield sites. The program marks the first time that city dollars have been specifically earmarked for brownfield redevelopment.

As a part of the program, the city is offering $200,000 in federal dollars for community development corporations (CDCs) and other non-for-profit organizations to help redevelop brownfield sites. Local Initiatives Support Corporations (LISC), a nationally sponsored organization that provides funding for neighborhood redevelopment, will contribute additional grant dollars.

Grants are awarded quarterly and applications for the next round of awards will be accepted beginning spring of 2003. Applications and information will be made available online at indygov.org.

In addition, the city is taking several other steps to promote brownfield development, including:

- **Brownfields catalog.** The city is creating a brownfields catalog that will market brownfields sites in Indianapolis and rank them according to redevelopment potential.

- **Brownfields “toolbox.”** In May the city updated the brownfields “toolbox”, a resource that provides organizations interested in redeveloping sites with lists of funding sources and explains the steps that must be taken during redevelopment.

- **Economic development incentives.** Last year, Peterson released strategic guidelines for effective, common sense use of city tax incentives. Projects that use brownfield sites, remove or remediate environmentally hazardous materials are favored, when feasible.