



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Press Release

Mayor McCarthy Announces 2016 Success of Schenectady's HOMES Program

*Over \$1 Million in Gross Sales to Date in 2016
More City-owned Listings in the Coming Weeks*

SCHENECTADY –Mayor Gary R. McCarthy today was joined by City officials and other Home Ownership Made Easy in Schenectady (HOMES) partners to announce the success of the Program. The City has achieved over \$1 million in gross sales of City-owned homes while supporting the goal of more home ownership. This success mirrors recent overall strength in the City's housing market as private home sales from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 were up nearly twenty five percent from the previous twelve month period.

“The HOMES Program provides a unique public-private partnership that improves quality of life in our City through home ownership,” said Mayor Gary McCarthy. “Through this innovative process we are able to show prospective buyers both the potential of the property and the ways they can achieve their dream of being homeowners.”

Officials spoke in front of 52 Marshall Avenue in Schenectady, one of several new City-owned and professionally listed properties that will be made available through Schenectady's innovative real estate partnership. The innovative and award winning HOMES Program has brought together private and public partners from the real estate, banking, and other housing-related areas to promote the values and opportunities available in Schenectady. The HOMES Program utilizes local realtors to professionally market both City-owned and privately available properties. The City uses social media, its website, and city staff to help promote home ownership and assist realtors in selling the properties. City officials, including public safety personnel, visit open houses and introduce prospective home owners to city services with an emphasis on attracting new owner occupied homeowners.

More

“As a lifelong Schenectady County resident, I have a personal stake in seeing my community grow and prosper,” said Ryan Clark, Real Estate Agent with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Blake and listing agent for 52 Marshall Ave. “As a real estate agent, I’m proud to be an integral part in selling these properties to owner-occupied homeowners that will help strengthen our communities, and revitalize our neighborhoods.”

This Sunday from 12:00-3:00 p.m., open houses will take place throughout the City as part of the Home Ownership Made Easy in Schenectady (HOMES) Open House Weekend. This provides buyers a chance to see the variety of opportunities available. HOMES partners are available to help buyers through the purchasing process including educating them on first time buyer grants and other valuable programs.

The award winning HOMES Program started out with 9 partners (Key Bank, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Blake, the Schenectady City School District, the Gazette, NBT Bank, U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Legere Restorations, SRG Architects, Open Stage Media) and continues to bring in additional partners (NBT Bank, Greater Capital District Association of Realtors, CDTA, Prospect Lending, Coldwell Banker, SONYMA, Trustco, The Home Depot, Creating Why Media, Capital District Community Loan Fund, NYSHCR, Schenectady County Habitat for Humanity, Community Land Trust of Schenectady, Better Neighborhoods Inc, Homestead Funding, M&T Bank, Miranda Real Estate Group, Inc, CM Fox Realty, SEFCU).

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