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Reps and Sens hail money for senior housing

Fri Apr 04, 2008, 10:51 AM EDT

BOSTON - *The following is a press release from Somerville's legislative delegation.*

Somerville's legislative delegation is pleased to announce new efforts by the Massachusetts Housing Partnership (MHP) to better the Somerville community.

MHP recently committed \$7,380,000 in long-term, first-mortgage financing to the Somerville Housing Authority to replace 65 obsolete housing units with 95 new units as part of Capen Court Senior Housing. MHP also committed \$2,500,000 to the Somerville Community Corporation for St. Polycarp Village, Phase One, which will help to finance 24 units of affordable rental housing as part of a mixed-use, mixed-income development slated to include a supportive program for young mothers and their children, a playground, a common, and approximately 6,000 square feet of commercial space.

Sen. Pat Jehlen praised MHP's efforts. "The state is playing an important role in working to serve these populations within the larger Somerville community," she said, "We at the State House are proud to be partnering with MHP, SCC, the Somerville Housing Authority and the City of Somerville to make such developments possible."

Rep. Denise Provost also lauded the cooperation between Somerville and the state government, saying, "This commitment to \$10 million in financing for Somerville shows that the state is our close partner in providing homes that Somerville people can afford."

Rep. Timothy Toomey thanked MHP for working to meet the city's needs. "Ensuring the provision of housing to all Somerville residents – especially those who are most vulnerable – has always been a top priority of mine and of the entire delegation," he said, "I'm thrilled that the MHP saw the need for additional housing units as clearly as we did."

Rep. Carl Sciortino also expressed his warm approval, affirming that "this funding provides much-needed affordable housing in my district. I'm grateful to MHP for partnering with our community."

Sen. Anthony Galluccio welcomes this support from Mass Housing. "This significant financing will help support sorely needed affordable homes in Somerville," he said, "I am especially pleased at the focus on homes for young mothers, senior citizens and developments that include a mix of incomes. In partnership with local housing authorities, state legislators and friends at Mass Housing Partnership, low-income residents in Somerville can finally look forward to some greatly needed new housing. I look forward to future collaborations."

MHP is a quasi-public agency that works on issues of affordable housing. Since the passage of a 1990 law requiring companies that purchase Massachusetts banks to make funds available to MHP, the agency has been using those lines of credit to create and preserve affordable rental housing.

Additional information can be found online at www.mhp.net

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