



DDA & HABITAT: SHARING LAND AND BENEFITS

Habitat for Humanity of Morgan County, Inc. and the Downtown Development Authority of Madison took their first steps forward in a cooperative relationship to bring affordable housing to Madison.

Over the past two years, DDA sought to identify an appropriate residential project for new workforce housing within the Downtown Urban Redevelopment Area (DURA). Habitat - a veteran housing provider in this area - was the clearly preferred partner, but land opportunities proved challenging.

On June 26, Habitat and DDA agreed to invest funds in the acquisition of an 1½-acre tract in the Canaan Historic Neighborhood. Habitat will receive two buildable development lots; DDA will receive the residual land to meet its greenspace obligations; and the community will gain new site-built, affordable homes.

DDA Chair Shandon Land gives all the credit to the leadership of Mayor Perriman and Cindy England of Habitat noting, "They negotiated a deal that turned an idea into reality." As a former DDA Director, Mayor Perriman was cognizant of the DDA's conceptual plan developed in 2012, and when approached by the property owner, "immediately translated the sale into a win-win," according to Land.

Also of note, Habitat has agreed to entertain any buildable lots made available by DDA. Monica Callahan, City Planning & Development Director, noted that the 2014 CDBG Application for Housing is currently pending and creates opportunities for such infill development.

More Information about improvements and investment opportunities in the Downtown Urban Redevelopment Area:

www.MadisonGA.com/DURA

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