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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PONTIAC ON ITS WAY TO REALIZING GOAL OF TOTAL BLIGHT ELIMINATION *305 of 900 Blighted Homes Eliminated Since January 2014*

PONTIAC, Mich., February 24, 2015—Bill Pulte, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and Pontiac Mayor Deirdre Waterman announced this morning that The Blight Authority, City of Pontiac and Oakland County team has eliminated 305 of its 900 identified blighted homes since January of 2014. The Blight Authority joined the team in April.

"We are very proud of our progress," said Pontiac Mayor Dr. Deirdre Waterman. "Our team set aggressive goals at the beginning of 2014 and we have exceeded them on all fronts. Although there is still a lot of work to do, we know that that our focused resource deployment is having a significant positive impact on our community."

The team also announced that St. Joseph Mercy Oakland has donated \$60,000 to The Blight Authority towards Pontiac blight removal efforts in 2015. "It's clear that St. Joseph is committed to this great community," said Pulte. "They see the vision and have pledged to help in any way they can." St. Joseph Mercy Oakland president and CEO said, "We are fully committed to the success of The Blight Authority. House by house, block by block, businesses and government are coming together to support the people of Pontiac."

In addition to the private support, The Blight Authority and the City of Pontiac have secured an additional \$150,000 in blight management funds from the state of Michigan.

"Eliminating blight in Pontiac will help the city move forward," Patterson said. "With Bill Pulte, The Blight Authority, and our new private donors, we have valuable allies in our goal of a blight-free Pontiac."

According to Pulte, the team has already secured the funding and identified another 120 homes for removal in 2015. "We are going to keep our foot on the gas," said Pulte. "We have great momentum and could take down as many as 200 homes this year if we get additional public and/or private funding. We are looking everywhere we can to find additional money. That's why partnerships like the one with St. Joseph are so vital to our success."

Last year, PNC Bank provided a \$15,000 grant to fund a city-wide home survey in Pontiac. Using technology developed by Detroit-based Loveland Technologies LLC, the blight team surveyed 25,000 parcels and determined that roughly 900 homes were blighted or on a path towards blight. "Removing the 305 homes that have been eliminated and accounting for another 70 properties that have either been taken down by private owners or no longer deemed blighted, there are roughly 597 blighted properties left," said Pulte. "If we hit our target, Pontiac can be another 33% closer to being blight free by the end of the year."

PNC Vice President and Market Manager Jason Paulateer added, "PNC is committed to boosting the quality of life in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. The Blight Authority has a strong track record of success and epitomizes the outstanding economic revitalization efforts supported by PNC Community Development Banking throughout our corporate footprint."

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