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LAWNDALE CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (LCDC): PIONEERING COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION AND EMPOWERMENT FOR OVER THREE DECADES

Chicago, November 2023 – Lawndale Christian Development Corporation (LCDC), a beacon of hope and catalyst for positive change in North Lawndale, proudly celebrates over three decades of transformative community development. Established in 1987 by the Lawndale Christian Community Church, LCDC has emerged as a leading force in addressing systemic issues, eliminating disparities, and building community wealth.

A Rich History of Impactful Initiatives:

From its inception, LCDC, under the visionary leadership of Executive Director Richard Townsell, has been dedicated to fulfilling the call to justice as outlined in Micah 6:8. Over the years, LCDC's initiatives have extended far beyond traditional community development, encompassing a holistic approach that tackles the root causes of poverty, structural racism, and health disparities.

Key Milestones and Achievements:

- **Affordable Housing Initiatives:** LCDC has been at the forefront of developing and managing affordable mixed-use housing, providing working families with the opportunity for homeownership.
- **Campaign for 1000 Homes:** In collaboration with United Power for Action and Justice, LCDC successfully secured government support for the Campaign for 1000 Homes, addressing the critical need for affordable housing in North Lawndale.
- **City Partnership:** LCDC's strategic collaboration led to the commitment from the City for the first phase of developing 250 lots and the acquisition of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds for site preparation work for the initial 109 homes.

Visionary Leadership:

Richard Townsell, the dedicated Executive Director of LCDC, has been instrumental in steering the organization toward impactful change. Reflecting on LCDC's journey, Townsell emphasizes, "Our work is





rooted in a deep commitment to justice, equity, and the well-being of the North Lawndale community. LCDC has been a vehicle for positive transformation, and we are proud of the lasting impact we've achieved."

Comprehensive Research and Advocacy:

LCDC's commitment to understanding and addressing community needs is exemplified by the recent collaboration with the University of Illinois at Chicago's Great Cities Institute. The Lawndale Databook, a 60-page report, offers a comprehensive analysis of community trends, problems, and recommendations for investment in Chicago's Lawndale neighborhood.

Deputy Director and Counsel Whittney Smith asserts, "The Lawndale Databook is not just a report; it is a call to action. It highlights the aspirations of our community, the challenges we face, and the solutions we propose. We are committed to turning these insights into tangible, community-driven change."

Looking to the Future:

As LCDC looks to the future, the organization remains steadfast in its commitment to community-driven development, the empowerment of residents, and the elimination of disparities. LCDC envisions North Lawndale as an economically sound community that is revitalized, inclusive, and a model for faith-based movements nationwide.

Engaging the Community and Beyond: LCDC invites stakeholders, policymakers, and community members to engage in its initiatives, recognizing that lasting change requires collaborative effort. The organization is open to partnerships, fostering community dialogue, and exploring innovative solutions for a brighter future.

About LCDC:

Lawndale Christian Development Corporation, founded in 1987, is a faith-driven organization committed to addressing social issues, eliminating disparities, and building community wealth in North Lawndale.

