



**MEDIA ADVISORY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 17, 2016

Indianapolis Promise Zone Completes Year One
Ten organizations receive \$9.6 million in funding

Indianapolis – On April 28, 2015 a collaborative effort, led by John Boner Neighborhood Centers (JBNC), in conjunction with the City of Indianapolis and 9 other implementation partners was awarded what is now known as the IndyEast Promise Zone designation. The plan that enabled much of the Near Eastside to be designated as a Promise Zone by the Federal government is a ten-year designation that will provide new opportunities to achieve the goals set by Near Eastside residents through the Quality of Life Plan.

Now, one year later, change is taking place. “The Promise Zone designation has been used to secure 14 grants from seven different federal agencies totaling \$9.6 million,” said James Taylor, John Boner Neighborhood Centers’ CEO. “The resources secured during this first year will create 110 new jobs, serve ex-offenders returning into our community, provide summer and year-round jobs to at-risk youth, provide targeted fair housing enforcement, and enable neighbors to become certified in healthcare fields, among other efforts. These activities benefit not only the IndyEast Promise Zone area, but our entire City.”

WHEN: **Thursday, May 19, 2016**
10 a.m.
Press Conference and Unveiling

Remarks by:

- ♦ Luke Tate, Special Assistant to the President for Economic Mobility, the White House
- ♦ Antonio Riley, Midwest Regional Administrator, U.S. Department of HUD
- ♦ The Honorable Joe Hogsett, Mayor of Indianapolis
- ♦ James Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, John Boner Neighborhood Centers

****MORE****

WHERE:



Ash & Elm Cider Co. - 2104 East Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46201
Street parking available on North Hamilton Avenue and Auto Value Parts store parking lot.

ABOUT THE INDYEAST PROMISE ZONE

As the lead applicant, JBNC and the residents of Near Eastside of Indianapolis have enlisted the assistance of multiple organizations to develop strategies around the following five goals to improve the quality of life and accelerate revitalization. These goals include:

- Live IndyEast – To create affordable housing options
- Work IndyEast – To create jobs
- Buy IndyEast – To increase economic activity
- Safe IndyEast – To reduce serious and violent crime
- Learn IndyEast – To improve educational opportunity

IndyEast Promise Zone

In the 1980's, the Near Eastside of Indianapolis was home to middle-class families with good-paying manufacturing jobs. With the decline of this sector of the local economy, and the resulting loss of many of those working families, these neighborhoods suffered from investment, concentrated poverty and blight. Promise Zones are high poverty and high capacity communities where the federal government will work with local leaders to increase efforts to achieve neighborhood created goals and priorities and are selected through a competitive grant application process. The second round of applications consisted of a total of 123 applications, eight of which were selected to receive the Promise Zone designation (six urban, one rural, and one tribal). There will be a total of 20 Promise Zones nationwide. In 2014, the first five were named and in 2015, eight more, including the near Eastside of Indianapolis. Implementation partners include:

- City of Indianapolis
- Englewood Community Development Corporation
- Indianapolis Housing Agency
- Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership
- Indianapolis Public Schools
- Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation
- Near East Area Renewal
- United Way of Central Indiana
- Westminster Neighborhood Services

<http://indyeast.org>.

About John Boner Neighborhood Centers

John Boner Neighborhood Center is a not-for-profit agency founded to serve residents of the Near Eastside of Indianapolis. Throughout the years, the Center's philosophy led to the creation of numerous services and programs in response to changes within the neighborhood. Neighborhood-driven efforts are essential in developing a healthy, thriving and vibrant community. The Center provides an array of tools for change and growth for our residents and community partners. Through our work, the Center is inspiring hope and fostering change to improve the lives of neighborhood residents. <http://jbncenters.com>.