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PRESS RELEASE

Norris Square Civic Association and Councilwoman Sánchez to Issue Joint Statement on St. Boniface Project

Councilwoman and community organization reach an agreement to save housing development

Philadelphia, June 22 2012: Patricia DeCarlo, Executive Director of Norris Square Civic Association (NSCA), and Councilwoman Quiñones-Sánchez will issue a joint statement on the status of the St. Boniface Redevelopment Project Saturday June 23, 2012 at the NSCA Annual Neighborhood Festival. On May 25, 2012, after months of talks, meetings and negotiations, DeCarlo and Sánchez reached a formal agreement to ensure the completion of the St. Boniface Project.

NSCA began plans to redevelop the former St. Boniface church complex in 2006 with community surveys and meetings to discern the Norris Square community's desire for the site. NSCA secured \$10 million in state and federal funds to develop mixed income housing on the site and to rehabilitate the community center, St. Boniface school building and rectory. Councilwoman Sánchez, who has long expressed her opposition to the incorporation of housing on the site, introduced bill 120214 to change the zoning of the area surrounding the project to exclude multi-family housing.

The new agreement includes the construction of no more than eight units of housing on the site instead of the 15 units previously planned. Additional housing units will be developed at feasible sites near the St. Boniface development to complete the 15 units proposed for the project. The Councilwoman has in turn agreed to support and facilitate the entire St Boniface development including ensuring the development of offices and the community center; facilitating the acquisition of properties for rehabilitation; lending her explicit support to funding applications to support the project; and assisting in the release of RDA owned lots currently identified for the "Las Terrazas" development on Susquehanna Ave. The Councilwoman has also pledged to support the acquisition of a half-acre site towards the development of the original 15 unit cooperative housing project through a \$250,000 contribution. In the meantime, the Councilwoman has tabled her rezoning bill (Bill 120214).

Norris Square Civic Association (NSCA) is a community development corporation founded in 1983 by a group of community women who desired to provide a healthy and safe environment for their children. The mission of NSCA is to empower Norris Square residents to improve their lives by becoming self-reliant, and to unite and build the community through the development and improvement of the physical, economic, social, cultural, and educational aspects of the neighborhood. For more information contact Candace McKinley at (215)426-8723 or visit nscaonline.org.