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## McCarroll School Demolition Paves the Way for New Youth Center

- *The City of Pontiac and the Oakland County Land Bank Authority are collaborating to demolish the McCarroll School and replace it with a new Youth Recreation Center.*
- *The demolition is supported by a \$500,000 State Land Bank Blight Elimination grant to revitalize the community by transforming the blighted school into a vibrant space for young people.*
- *The new center will offer youth-focused programs, state-of-the-art facilities, and community opportunities to support the growth and development of young people in Pontiac.*

**PONTIAC, MI** (July 31, 2024) — The City of Pontiac, in collaboration with the Oakland County Land Bank Authority, is pleased to announce the long-anticipated demolition of McCarroll School, located at 191 N. Glenwood Ave., Pontiac, MI, a significant community blight for the past 19 years. This project is supported by a \$500,000 grant to the Oakland County Land Bank Authority (OCLBA) from the State Land Bank Authority's Blight Elimination Program.

Since its closure in 2005, McCarroll School, once a beacon of education and learning, has stood as a significant community blight, posing safety risks. Initially constructed in 1924 with an addition in 1957, the building spans 33,609 square feet on 6.51 acres and has deteriorated significantly, necessitating its demolition.

Established in June 2022, the Oakland County Land Bank Authority is dedicated to revitalizing communities, promoting economic growth, and enhancing the quality of life within Oakland County. In collaboration with local governments, developers, and community organizations, the OCLBA helps transform vacant, abandoned, and underutilized properties into vibrant, productive spaces that foster sustainable development, affordable housing, and community revitalization.

"The collaboration between the City of Pontiac and the Oakland County Land Bank Authority exemplifies our shared vision for a thriving, supportive community," said Oakland County Land

Bank Authority Chairman and Oakland County Treasurer Robert Wittenberg. “We are proud to be a part of this transformative project that honors the legacy of McCarroll School and paves the way for the new youth recreation center that will serve as a beacon of hope and progress.”

The demolition of McCarroll School, now in the abatement phase, is a pivotal step in revitalizing the community and transforming the site into a vibrant youth recreation center, a project strongly supported by Pontiac residents through a 2017 vote approving a 10-year, 1.5 mill levy.

“We applaud the work of the Oakland County Land Bank – it’s partnerships like this that make sure every dollar invested translates into tangible improvements that benefit our state,” said Joseph Rivet, Director of the State Land Bank Authority. “Gov. Whitmer launched the Blight Elimination Program as a way to invest in the long-term prosperity and vitality of our state, ensuring that future generations have access to thriving, vibrant neighborhoods where they can live, work and prosper, and the McCarroll School project is a great example of making that vision a reality.”

The new Youth Recreation Center will feature a range of facilities and programs to foster education, physical activity, and personal development. From academic support and enrichment activities to sports and fitness programs, the center will be a cornerstone for youth engagement and community building.

"Investing in our young people and improving the quality of life for our residents is the cornerstone of building a brighter future for Pontiac," said Pontiac Mayor Tim Greimel. "By transforming the McCarroll School site into a state-of-the-art youth recreation center, we are creating a destination that will foster youth development, inspire dreams, and build a stronger, more vibrant Pontiac for generations."

This new facility will honor the institution's legacy as a place of learning and growth, continuing to educate, empower, and inspire young people for generations.

#### Key Highlights of the New Youth Recreation Center:

- **Youth-Focused Programs:** The center will offer various programs and activities designed to support the growth and development of young people, from academic enrichment to athletic pursuits.
- **State-of-the-Art Facilities:** Equipped with modern amenities, the center will provide a safe and welcoming environment for youth to learn, play, and thrive.
- **Community Opportunities:** The center will also be a hub for community events and activities, fostering a sense of unity and collaboration within Pontiac.

"This historic neighborhood is a really special place with spacious, popular parks and beautiful housing," said Pontiac City Council President Pro Tem William Carrington, who represents the council district that includes the former McCarroll School. "By demolishing this long-dormant

school, we can strategically repurpose the centrally located site to serve surrounding neighborhoods and the entire city."

As the demolition progresses, community updates on the project will be provided. The new Youth Recreation Center is set to become a vital resource, providing a safe, nurturing environment where young people can grow, learn, and succeed.

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For interviews or more information, please contact:

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