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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Rockford Receives a Grant for the Demolition of Abandoned Properties

ROCKFORD – April 22, 2014 – The City of Rockford is pleased to announce that the Illinois Housing Development Authority Board approved the award of a grant in the amount of \$250,000 through its Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Program to Rockford. This grant will give Rockford the ability to demolish approximately 30 additional properties within the next year. The program will begin once grant agreements are executed and eligible properties are identified.

The Rockford program will be targeted primarily to properties on the fast track demolition list which meet the definition of “abandoned” by the grant. Abandoned residential property must be unoccupied and contain an incomplete structure, zoned residential, and in need of maintenance, repair or securing.

This grant was highly competitive. Rockford is one of 53 municipalities and counties named that will receive the funds. The City of Rockford submitted a strong application identifying the need, the fiscal management ability, and experienced staff to administer the program and received the maximum grant available.

“The grant will provide us with additional resources to address vacant and abandoned property in Rockford. The properties we will be targeting are properties that are negatively affecting adjacent property, are associated with crime, are an increased fire risk, and affect the overall health of neighborhood and its residents,” stated the Community and Economic Development Director Todd Cagnoni.

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