

MEDIA ADVISORY
Thursday, April 10, 2025

Contact: Mike Nowlin
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CMHA to start demolition of vacant, former United Way headquarters downtown on Monday, April 14 — **great visuals and on-site interview opportunity**

The circa 1969 building is being razed to make way for a new \$29 million, five-story, 82-apartment development that will serve middle- and low-wage-earning families and people with disabilities, with grand opening expected in 2026

WHO: Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) Chief Operating Officer **Scott Scharlach**

WHAT: COO Scharlach will be on-site and available for interviews/sound bites as workers begin the demolition of the former **United Way of Central Ohio** downtown headquarters built in 1969.

Great opportunity for b-roll/photos and to report on this innovative and exciting new downtown development that marks the first phase of CMHA's plan for the construction of **AspireCOLUMBUS**, a nearly \$29 million, five-story affordable housing community in the heart of downtown that will predominantly serve middle- and low-wage-earning families as well as people with disabilities.

The scope of the demolition work consists of razing the entire former United Way building, including foundations, footings and all associated overhead or underground utility services. The underground structures and all unsuitable soils will also be included in the site preparation. The adjoining parking lot will remain and be available for hourly paid public parking.

Construction will begin in mid-2025 on the 82-unit mixed-income development that includes a mix of studio and one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments. The groundbreaking is tentatively scheduled for this summer, with the grand opening for occupancy anticipated in 2026.

WHEN: **9:15-10 a.m. Monday, April 14, 2025**

WHERE: **360 S. Third St., Columbus**

RSVP: If media want to confirm an on-site interview with COO Scharlach, please call, text or email Mike Nowlin at 989-450-0855 or Nowlin@gudmarketing.com and we'll add you to his schedule.

MORE INFO: CMHA's plan for AspireCOLUMBUS features 17 studio units, 33 one-bedroom units, 23 two-bedroom units and nine three-bedroom units, with 70 total parking spaces on a surface lot. Of the 82 total apartments, 31 units (or 38%) will be rent-subsidized by CMHA's Housing Choice Voucher program. Residents in those units are anticipated to be at 30% of area median income, which in metro Columbus is an annual income of about \$21,700 for an individual and \$27,900 for a family of three. CMHA plans for 12 apartments (or 15% of the inventory) to



be at market rate. Current estimates show monthly market-rate rents will range from \$1,211 for a studio apartment to \$2,280 for a three-bedroom unit.

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