



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 20, 2014

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**TWO MAJOR BLIGHTED PROPERTIES TO BE DEMOLISHED
IN WHITEHAVEN NEXT WEEK**

MEMPHIS, TN – Two large abandoned apartment complexes in Whitehaven will be demolished at 10 am Monday, June 23rd, following a brief news conference at the site.

Thanks to a partnership between Shelby County Government and the non-profit organization, Neighborhood Preservation Incorporated (NPI), a bulldozer will begin demolishing the apartments at 3539 Cazassa. Also, the City of Memphis will begin tearing down the Winchester Gardens apartments across the street at 1895 Winchester.

“Our land bank took possession of the apartments on Cazassa Road from the Shelby County Trustee in 2011 due to delinquent property taxes. With no buyer and limited funds to tear down such a large structure, we were pleased to donate the property to NPI,” said Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

Shelby County has deed to more than 4,500 properties taken for non-payment of property taxes. The properties have to be advertised for sale. If not sold, state law gives the County the authority to donate properties to non-profit agencies in good standing with the State of Tennessee.

“We have negotiated an arrangement with a prospective new owner who is funding the very substantial demolition costs and will purchase the property from NPI, absent any better offers, thus returning it to the tax rolls. Until then, NPI will ensure that the site is well maintained. This will go a long way to help restore the appearance of the neighborhood, which is precisely why we created NPI,” said NPI Board Chairman George Cates.

Through the years, the apartments have been a continual source of concern for nearby residents.

“We’re very pleased NPI has worked with Shelby County to chart a new future for this property. NPI’s a great example of how an organization can help government find solutions to some very complex problems,” said City of Memphis Mayor A C Wharton, Jr. **“Also, we announced late last year that the Winchester Gardens apartments would be coming down, and I am pleased to see that both of these eyesores are being demolished, freeing these large, prime pieces of real estate for redevelopment.”**

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