



CITY OF BALDWIN PARK

PRESS RELEASE

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Highly anticipated development to debut in city *Metro Village among newest undertakings for affordable housing*

BALDWIN PARK, CA (October 10, 2016) – Within the last 18 months, passersby along Ramona Boulevard and Maine Avenue may have noticed the steady construction of a new four-story apartment complex near the city's hub. The announcement is now official: Metro Village is ready to open.

In fact, a grand opening ceremony has been scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 13, to unveil Baldwin Park's latest housing project. The special event is slated begin at 4 p.m. and will include a presentation and tour of the new complex, according to organizers.

Metro Village, at 14428 E. Ramona Blvd., is one of the city's most recent construction undertakings for affordable housing. Project and city associates broke ground on the one-acre site in March 2015. The city hired ROEM Development Corporation, a Santa Clara-based group, to spearhead the \$27 million mixed-use residential project.

Making affordable housing available to the community – and ideally to current Baldwin Park residents – has been a priority to local officials. Previous statistics had shown that the city's unemployment rate was at about 11 percent, the highest in the San Gabriel Valley for the last few years. That figure is above the state's unemployment rate, which measures at about 7.8 percent.

Like many other city associates, Baldwin Park Mayor Manuel Lozano is excited about this week's debut of a new city project.

“The Metro Village represents the beginning of a new era in the history of Baldwin Park,” said the mayor. “Already you can see the positive impacts of this project, including the enticement of new businesses and developers seeking to establish other projects in this area that will continue to propel this transformation and soon will serve as an example of what can be accomplished through focused long-term planning and collaboration.”

Project officials noted that the new Metro Village complex will offer one-, two-, or three-bedroom units to families who make 60 percent or less of the county’s median income. The fact that it was designed as an affordable housing complex made it even more appealing. The new building will provide 69 units to new residents, along with space for retail for the general community. Blueprints for the property include 5,500 square feet of floor space for potential businesses, as well as various amenities – such as a community room to entertain guests, a fitness room, a laundry room, and space to barbecue or relax on the patio – for apartment residents.

Metro Village’s proximity to downtown Baldwin Park, in addition to its convenient access to public transportation, was also a draw for potential renters, according to officials.

“[Metro Village], along with the Metrolink Station, will serve as the catalyst that will remake our downtown area into the vibrant and dynamic center piece to our city that we all envisioned it could be,” Lozano added.

Project managers also highlighted the fact that Metro Village is an environmentally sustainable project. As a result, officials are pursuing a Gold certification through the U.S. Green Building Council’s (USGBC) LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, program for housing. According to the USGBC’s web site, LEED-certified buildings are resource efficient, as they use less water and energy, and, therefore, save money for communities.

Those interested in attending the grand opening should RSVP by October 11. RSVPs may be made via e-mail to cconcepcion@roemcorp.com.

About Baldwin Park

The City of Baldwin Park is one of eighty-eight cities located within Los Angeles County with a population of more than 75,000 residents. For additional information, please call (626) 813-5201.

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