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PUSH BUFFALO TO PARTY ON GRANT STREET THIS THURSDAY

City and State Officials To Join PUSH Leaders and Grant Street Business Owners To Celebrate Improvements

BUFFALO, N.Y. – People United for Sustainable Housing (PUSH Buffalo), a local membership-based community organization, will gather on **Thursday, May 3 at 10 a.m. at the Courtyard on 197 Grant Street** to celebrate the successful **implementation of NYS Homes and Community Renewal Agency’s Main Street Grant.**

Assemblyman Sean Ryan, Mayor Byron Brown and Councilman David Rivera are slated to join Grant Street business owners, community residents and contractors at Thursday’s event.

"We believe in assisting local, independent businesses on Grant Street so that they can better serve our diverse and growing population," said Jennifer Mecozzi, PUSH Buffalo’s director of community organizing. "Not only is it part of our mission; it’s crucial to the community’s continued growth."

"We're especially pleased that this grant also led to the adoption of renewable energy systems like a new geothermal heating system," continued Mecozzi.

The Main Street Grant, which provides a match for building owners who invest in their properties, has incentivized major capital improvements to eight businesses along Grant Street that include: West Side Bazaar, New to You Shop, Sweet_ness 7 Café, and Argybargy Printing. Business improvements ranged from a comprehensive rehabilitation of heating, electrical and plumbing systems to facade improvements.

Among the most extensive projects funded by the grant was the comprehensive rehabilitation of a storefront and residential units at 197 Grant Street. The project included the installation of a geothermal heating and cooling system.

In addition to the rehabilitation of building heating and electrical systems, the Main Street Grant also improved the streetscape of the two-block business district between Delavan and Auburn avenues. In collaboration with Our Lady of Hope RCC and the community, a new pocket park with pavers, extensive landscaping and benches were also constructed on the corner of Lafayette and Delavan avenues.

PUSH Buffalo implemented the Main Street Grant by identifying building owners eager to improve their buildings and assisting them with the design and construction phases.

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About PUSH Buffalo

People United for Sustainable Housing’s (PUSH) mission is to mobilize residents to create strong neighborhoods with quality affordable housing, expand local hiring opportunities and advance economic justice in Buffalo. PUSH members work with partners and funders to create a healthy, just and strong city that includes community control of resources, living wage jobs and access to quality education, healthcare and transportation. For more information about our growing organization, visit www.PUSHBuffalo.org.

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PHOTOS OF BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST