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Friday, November 19, 2004 | Modified: Wednesday, December 1, 2004

Developers launch renovation of Washington Park buildings

Business Courier of Cincinnati

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Officials from local nonprofit groups and development companies today drove the first nails into a \$5.8 million project to renovate two Washington Park apartment buildings.

Once refurbished, the sites, at 31 W. 13th St. and 1223 Republic St., will provide housing for low-income working families in the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood. The buildings will include 37 apartments: seven three-bedroom units, 25 two-bedroom units and five one-bedroom units.

"We want to see this historic neighborhood flourish once again as a special place, one in which working men and women have good jobs and raise and educate their children in a safe and pleasant environment," said John Cobey, president of the nonprofit Washington Park Housing Corp.

Among those on hand for the kick-off ceremonies were Joe Pichler, retired chairman of Kroger Co. and current chairman of Cincinnati Center City Development Corp.'s Over-the-Rhine working group, and Cincinnati City Councilman David Crowley.

"3CDC is pleased to participate in this exciting project because it promises to help revitalize Washington Park and Over-the-Rhine as a vibrant, economically and racially diverse neighborhood," Pichler said in a statement.

The renovation is being handled by The Model Group, and the company also will manage the apartments once the renovation is complete.

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