



## **Supporters Expected to Pack Hearing for Cranberry Ridge**

**SUMMARY:** More than 200 supporters of Cranberry Ridge are expected to attend the Plymouth Planning Commission hearing October 18. They will ask the Planning Commission to prioritize multi-family housing and recommend approval of Cranberry Ridge, 47 apartment homes for families on 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue North.

**SAINT PAUL (October 12, 2017)**—More than 200 Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative leaders and supporters are planning to attend the October 18 Plymouth Planning Commission meeting to testify and demonstrate support for Cranberry Ridge. The supporters will include clergy and members of more than a dozen area congregations that are part of the Beacon collaborative.

The Planning Commission is considering Beacon’s land use application for Cranberry Ridge, a proposed development of 47 quality apartment homes in the Wayzata School District on 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue North near Old Rockford Road in Plymouth. Interfaith Outreach is a partner in the development and will have staff on site at Cranberry Ridge to support parents and children.

“This is an ideal site for multi-family housing. It’s near parks, shopping facilities and jobs and has great access to major streets and to transit,” said Lee Blons, executive director of Beacon.

Rev. Amber Ingalsbe of Saint Barnabas Lutheran Church commented that “Saint Barnabas has been in Plymouth for 30 years. More than two-thirds of our members live here. We know that it’s a welcoming community, a great place for families. It’s important that we have more homes for families, including opportunities to rent.”

Homes that working families can afford are hard to find in the western suburbs. According to the Met Council, only 12 percent of the homes in Plymouth are affordable to families of four earning \$45,000 or less. This means that many people who work in the city in childcare, retail, maintenance, service, and other jobs can’t afford to live in the city.

Cranberry Ridge will feature one, two, three and four bedroom apartments. Rents will be affordable for working families earning between \$20,000 and \$45,000 per year. Ten homes will be set aside for families who earn less and who will have assistance paying their rent.

LaDonna Hoy, executive director of Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners, said, “Last year the presenting need of 436 families who came to our doors was homelessness. The number is staggering. Its impact is heartrending. Cranberry Ridge is our community’s opportunity to put a life-changing dent in that number.”



Wayzata Community Church, a Beacon collaborating congregation, has taken a leadership role in the Cranberry Ridge development and has invested \$500,000 in capital. “Our faith calls us to create inclusive communities where there’s a place for everyone—regardless of income,” said Rev. Dr. John Ross, Senior Minister at Wayzata Community Church.

Cranberry Ridge supporters at the Planning Commission hearing will represent at least a dozen congregations with more than 5,000 Plymouth residents among their members. The Beacon collaborating congregations who have committed to attend include: Mount Olivet Lutheran Church of Plymouth; Saint Barnabas Lutheran Church, Plymouth; St. Luke Presbyterian Church, Minnetonka; St. David’s Episcopal Church, Minnetonka; St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, Maple Grove; Wayzata Community Church; Oak Knoll Lutheran Church, Minnetonka; Plymouth Creek Christian Church; Peace Lutheran Church of Plymouth; St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church, Plymouth; St. Martin’s by-the-Lake, Minnetonka Beach; Bet Shalom, Minnetonka; and, Northwest Islamic Community Center, Plymouth.

The Plymouth City Council will have final say on the Cranberry Ridge proposal. They are scheduled to hold a public hearing and vote on the apartment homes November 14.

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**About Beacon** | Beacon is a collaborative of more than 80 congregations in the Twin Cities metro area committed to making sure all people have a home. Beacon congregations create homes, shelter families, and work for policy change. Beacon has become one of the leading housing organizations in the region and now provides 500 high quality homes that are affordable to families, seniors, young adults and others, most of whom earn less than \$26,000 a year. | [www.beaconinterfaith.org](http://www.beaconinterfaith.org)

**About Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners** | Interfaith Outreach engages cross-sector partnerships in the delivery of immediate and family support services including food, housing and neighborhoods, education and youth, employment and transportation. The organization has been working with families living in eight west Hennepin County communities since 1979. | <http://www.iocp.org/>

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