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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

A Longstanding Midtown Houston Structure Gets New Life Providing Mixed-use Housing for Veterans

(Houston) Mayor Sylvester Turner and Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis today joined local, state, and federal officials for the renovation kick-off ceremony of The Rail Lofts, Houston's newest mid-town residential and adaptive living option.

Developers of The Rail Lofts, Cantwell-Anderson Inc. / Cloudbreak Communities, are converting the nearly 100-year-old structure (built in 1922) located at 4600 Main St. into a 56-unit studio loft apartment complex. Half of the units will sell at market rate. The other half will be available for veterans and other city and county residents meeting the income guidelines. The apartments will open in January 2022.

"The Rail Lofts are an important addition to housing opportunities for veterans. It will provide a safe place for them to build community while providing options to build a home for people of all income levels," said Mayor Turner.

The Rail Lofts will provide an array of services. About a third of the space will house a branch of the U.S. office of Veterans Affairs. There will be onsite support for financial management, credit counselling and employment coaching for veterans. Additionally, there will be services to help prevent lapses into alcoholism and substance abuse.

Over 30,000 people from all income levels sought emergency shelter following Hurricane Harvey. Additionally, there was an increase in the homeless population due to Harvey. Renters appear to have had some of the greatest challenges to recovery as they compete for vacant units.

"Our communities need quality affordable housing for people of all income levels in order for our economy to thrive and for people to have hope and a real sense of home," said Commissioner Rodney Ellis. The Rail Lofts is one of sixteen developments where the County

is focusing local and federal assistance to rebuild our housing stock following Hurricane Harvey and the Floods of 2015 and 2016.

The total cost of the project is \$16,339,005 with \$13,011,090 in support from county and city disaster recovery funding. The Rail Lofts are made possible with the support of the Texas General Land Office and the utilization of community development block grant funding for disaster recovery delivered to the county by the federal department of Housing and Urban Development.

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