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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County to Participate In Ribbon-Cutting for Apartment Complex for Homeless Residents

What: Ribbon-cutting and open house for Cypress Landing

When: Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 1:30 p.m.

Where: 11740 N. 15th St. in Tampa

(Tampa, Fla.) – Hillsborough County will join Mental Health Care/Gracepoint and Steps Forward on Wednesday, Jan. 23 to celebrate the opening of Cypress Landing at 11740 N. 15th St. in Tampa. The ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at 1:30 p.m. and will include the unveiling of a plaque to be placed at the complex and a tour of the new apartments.

Cypress Landing is a 24-unit newly refurbished apartment building purchased and renovated with \$2 million in federal funds obtained by the County's Affordable Housing Services Department.

Cypress Landing will provide permanent housing for chronically homeless residents. Last year, County Commissioners approved a contract with Mental Health Care/Gracepoint to provide counseling and other services to the tenants at Cypress Landing.

County Commission Vice Chair Sandra L. Murman, District 1, a founding member of Steps Forward, is eager to find practical solutions to the homeless problem.

"It's about quality of life and giving these people some dignity," Commissioner Murman said. "The end result of taking the chronic homeless off the street is a worthy goal for this community."

Other partners in Steps Forward agree that projects like Cypress Landing can help solve homelessness in the Tampa Bay area.

Tod Leiweke, Chief Executive Officer of the Tampa Bay Lightning, also a founding member of Steps Forward, said "We know this is where we can make the most profound difference in the fight against homelessness here in our community."

"People come as they are," said Guy King, president of M.E. Wilson Company, Inc., another Steps Forward founding partner. "This population has been homeless more than a year and more commonly suffers from mental illness and addictions. Restoring dignity raises expectations."

Steps Forward is a private-public partnership group committed to helping solve the chronic homeless problem. Steps Forward's community partners include DDA Development; Foley & Lardner LLP; Guy King, president of M.E. Wilson Company, Inc.; Liberty Group; IKEA; PNC Bank; and Tampa Bay Lightning Chief Executive Officer Tod Leiweke.

For more information on Cypress Landing, go to [Steps Forward's](#) website.

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For more information: www.stepsforwardtampa.com