



Lawyers for Neighborhoods & Nonprofits

Press Release

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Community Law Center Pro Bono Attorney Clears Legal Hurdles to a New Community Center

Baltimore, MD (May 30, 2012) – Today, a pro bono attorney from **Community Law Center's** Pro Bono Program successfully represented **Banner Neighborhoods** in obtaining zoning approval for turning a vacant building in Southeast Baltimore City into a neighborhood multi-purpose center.

Banner Neighborhoods approached Community Law Center, Inc. seeking representation to attain zoning approvals that included a conditional use permit and a variance, which would enable the organization to obtain financing to acquire and renovate a vacant building at 2911 Pulaski Highway. Gregory E. Rapisarda, Esq., an attorney from Saul Ewing, volunteered to help the group navigate the zoning appeals process, donating thousands of dollars in free legal services.

"Banner Neighborhoods' story is emblematic of the cases handled by Community Law Center," explains Kristine Dunkerton, Executive Director of Community Law Center. "Rather than spending substantial resources on legal representation, nonprofits represented through Community Law Center's Pro Bono Program can use more of their donations to carry out their good works in the community."

"We are delighted with the outcome of today's hearing, and we could not have done it without the help of our pro bono attorney," said Jolyn Rademacher Tracy, Executive Director of Banner Neighborhoods. "We look forward to the next steps in creating a community space to continue our work promoting resident-based leadership, neighborhood pride and stability, and providing direct services that contribute to the overall viability throughout 10 communities in southeast Baltimore."

"The CLC provided me a wonderful opportunity to apply my land use and zoning skills to improve the community," stated Community Law Center pro bono attorney Gregory E. Rapisarda, Esq. of Saul Ewing LLP. "It is rewarding to be a part of Banner Neighborhoods' great work in southeast Baltimore, and CLC made it possible."

Community Law Center's Pro Bono Program matches volunteer lawyers with community associations and nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland. Community Law Center's Pro Bono Program helps improve the safety, quality of life, and economic vitality of neighborhoods in Maryland by addressing a wide range of legal issues on behalf of community and nonprofit organizations.

For more information, please visit www.communitylaw.org.

Community Law Center, a nonprofit law firm, provides legal services to community and nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland to promote stronger nonprofits and more vibrant neighborhoods.