



Contact: Moli Steinert
Direct Line: 415-296-8995, ext. 6
Cell Phone: 415-350-2764
Email: moli@openhouse-sf.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITY APPROVES HOUSING MOVE FOR LGBT SENIORS

San Francisco, CA - April 8, 2008 – Volunteers and supporters gathered in the chambers of City Hall today to watch the San Francisco Board of Supervisors give final unanimous approval for the development of a residential complex that will include affordable housing that is welcoming to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) senior citizens.

The new senior housing, which is an integrated part of the total complex envisioned for the site, will feature approximately 88 affordable units designed to meet the needs of LGBT seniors who qualify for below market-rate housing. It will also provide **Openhouse**, a local non-profit organization dedicated to serving LGBT seniors, with a permanent base of operations.

“This is the housing initiative that will help our organization create a safe and vibrant environment for all LGBT seniors who consider San Francisco their home,” said Moli Steinert, executive director of **Openhouse**.

The approved facility, located at 55 Laguna Street on the former UC extension site, is the result of a partnership between **Openhouse**, the San Francisco Mayor’s Office on Housing (MOH) and AF Evans, a private developer. The **Openhouse** building will be part of a larger initiative by AF Evans to develop a new complex of rental apartments, a publicly-accessible park and community garden and retail facilities.

With support from city supervisors, low-income housing advocates and other key stakeholders, **Openhouse** won a stunning commitment from the MOH to provide financing to make the housing units 100 percent affordable to seniors. “This is an historic moment and the culmination of ten years of hard, determined work by many, many people,” said Marcy Adelman, **Openhouse** founder and board member. “It is an historic first for Northern California.”

“I am delighted by this,” said Hadley Hall, an early advocate for outreach to LGBT seniors. “Those who need the housing most will qualify. This is the result of incredible hard work, an unbelievable feat really, and they’ve done it.”

--- MORE ---

About Openhouse – Openhouse is a nonprofit organization based in San Francisco dedicated to helping lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) older adults stay connected to community. In addition to efforts to build new supportive housing that addresses the needs of our aging community at all income levels, **Openhouse** offers an increasing variety of services, aging resources, programs, events, and outreach to LGBT seniors. www.openhouse-sf.org.

If you'd like more information on this topic, or to schedule an interview with Moli Steinert, please call Moli at 415-296-8995 ext. 6, or email Moli at moli@openhouse-sf.org.

--- END ---