



News Release
"The Voice for Real Estate" in Illinois

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**Peoria mayor and other community leaders press conference scheduled for
May 17; Peoria Area Association of REALTORS® receives Illinois
REALTORS® Political Involvement Award**

SPRINGFIELD, IL — The Peoria Area Association of REALTORS® (PAAR), which was recently honored with the Illinois REALTORS® Political Involvement Award, will host a communitywide meeting to discuss redevelopment of the old McKinley and Harrison school sites in the next five years that could bolster the city of Peoria.

PAAR leaders, joined by Mayor Rita Ali, Peoria Housing Authority CEO Armeca Crawford and 50 other stakeholders will participate in a roundtable discussion on revitalization of those neighborhoods, followed by a press conference. A recent report outlined steps that can be taken to revitalize the distressed neighborhoods, if both the public and private sectors joined forces and made it a priority right now. Several of the recommendations have already been instituted.

In April, PAAR leaders were recognized by Illinois REALTORS® for their part in bringing together local community leaders (clergy, police, etc.), the public housing authority, elected officials at all levels as well as large company representatives, entrepreneurs with the state association's political involvement award. The honor is traditionally given to individuals for outstanding political and legislative service to the REALTOR® organization. PAAR is the first local REALTOR® association to be recognized for this award.

On May 17, Mayor Ali, Peoria Housing Authority CEO Armeca Crawford and 50 other community stakeholders will gather at PAAR to discuss the findings of The Counselors of Real Estate Consulting Corps (CRE) who came to Peoria last October and toured the school sites and visited with many local stakeholders including representatives from the city, public housing authority, public school district, community college, park district, social service groups, local clergy and neighborhood groups.

CRE's experts created a comprehensive and detailed report recommending a number of strategies to spur reinvestment in the neighborhood, including use of the city's new homeownership program. Additionally, the report identified specific federal, state and local resources and organizations that could work with the mayor's office to revive these neighborhoods. [Find the full report on the PAAR website.](#)

Media interested in attending the press conference scheduled immediately after the meeting should contact Anthony Hebron or Jennifer Hamm, PAAR Chief Executive Officer, at 309-688-8591.

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[The Peoria Area Association of REALTORS®](#) is the "Voice of Real Estate: for the Greater Peoria region with over 800 members engaged in all facets of the real estate industry. PAAR advocates for all private property owners. REALTORS® are experts in guiding you in the decision to buy or sell; look for the R. More information on purchasing a home in the Peoria region can be found at www.309MLS.com

[Illinois REALTORS®](#) is a voluntary trade association whose more than 50,000 members are engaged in all facets of the real estate industry. In addition to serving the professional needs of its members, the association works to protect and advance the profession, homeowners, and private property rights by engaging with elected officials at the local and state level.

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