

PRESS BRIEF

MRRA makes Offer on BNAS Housing

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Contact: Steve Levesque (207) 798-6512

The Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority (MRRA), the entity charged with the redevelopment of the Brunswick Naval Air Station, has submitted a confidential offer to Northeast Housing LLC to acquire all of the 702 military family dwelling units that are associated with the base. Northeast Housing LLC had requested offers on all or portions of the seven neighborhoods comprising the military housing associated with the base.

“Based upon a substantial amount of public discourse and a thorough evaluation of the various complex issues associated with the subject property by MRRA staff and consultants, it is clear that MRRA is the most appropriate party to negotiate the various financial and public benefit issues that arise from the intended sale of the properties” stated MRRA Executive Director, Steve Levesque.

Levesque further stated “MRRA’s primary interest is in the successful redevelopment of the soon to be closed base, and the restoration of employment and economic activity that will be lost to the community as a result of the base closure. It is our firm opinion that this goal is best achieved by the maintenance of housing market stability in the larger Brunswick/Topsham community, a condition which could be adversely affected by the sale of the portfolio to a purchaser who is simply motivated by the maximization of real estate proceeds from the portfolio.”

While the terms and conditions of MRRA’s offer are confidential, it is framed by a series of essential community values as follows:

1. Demolition of all the housing units at the Topsham Annex;
2. Demolition of the majority of the housing units in the McKean Street residential community;
3. Phase the delivery of former BNAS units into the market over a series of years, thereby moderating impacts to local landlords and homeowners;
4. Reuse of approximately 10-20% of the units as affordable “workforce” housing, much of which will be focused on first time home buyers within a mixed income configuration; and
5. Set aside a significant inventory of units for prospective employers on the former base as an incentive for workforce development.