



The Terrell Tribune/GARY E. LINDSLEY

Brownstone Apartment Homes is honored by city and state representatives during an Oct. 29 grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony. From left are state Rep. Lance Gooden (R-Terrell), apartment complex manager Melissa Reeves, Avid Acquisition partners Jill Lauderdale and Sim Green, and Terrell Mayor Hal Richards.

A new beginning

Civic, community leaders praise renovation of apartment complex

BY GARY E. LINDSLEY

Terrell Mayor Hal Richards on Monday likened the Brownstone Apartment Homes to a Phoenix rising from the ashes.

Richards was joined by other city officials, as well as community members, in a grand-opening ribbon cutting ceremony for the apartment community off State Highway 34 near the post office.

Richards read a city proclamation calling Monday Brownstone Apartment Homes Day.

Avid Acquisitions acquired the 107-unit complex in September 2011 and invested more than \$1.2 million

into the facility. Renovations include correcting plumbing issues, water damage, leaks and pest infestation. There also were some units which were not level.

Windows and glass have been replaced as well.

Avid Acquisitions then hired Greensboro, N.C.-based Sunchase American to manage the property. Melissa Reeves was hired by Sunchase American as the property manager.

Terrell Chamber of Commerce vice president Carlton Tidwell during Monday's ceremony welcomed Avid Acquisitions partners Sim Green and Jill Lauderdale to the community.

"We appreciate what you have

done and accomplished," Tidwell said.

The apartment complex was constructed in 1964 and was declared substandard by the Terrell Buildings and Standards Commission on Sept. 27, 2011.

Green has said he learned about the property and was determined to turn it around, especially since most everyone else deemed it a loss. He said the city had a right to close it down and condemn it, but there was no doubt in his mind it could be turned around.

"To me, it was a way to give back to society," Green said.

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Terrell Police Chief Jody L. Lay wanted the complex torn down because of its high-crime past. Lay referred to it as a symbol of lawlessness stemming back to 1980 when Terrell police officer Robert Stout was murdered there.

He was convinced the

complex would not be able to recover. However, with the hiring of a Kaufman County deputy who lives at the complex and a high-grade security system, Lay touts the changes and said the new owners have turned around the complex.

Precinct 3 Commissioner J.C. Jackson was at Mon-

day's ceremony and also was pleased by the turnaround.

"I was born and raised here," Jackson said. "I can remember when they built the apartments and everyone was excited because they were brand new.

"Then, for a long time, it was real bad," he said. "I think this organization that came

in here completely turned this around. It's good for the city, community and county."

Jackson also said he had spoken with residents living at the complex and they told him they were very happy with the changes.

"If they stay on the road they are on, good things will happen," he said.