

## Longtime Civic Activist Lillian Jones Attends Groundbreaking for the Lillian Jones Apartments in Baltimore

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**Baltimore** – Secretary Skinner joined Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Lillian Jones Apartments, a 73-unit multifamily rental complex in Baltimore’s Johnston Square community. Among the guests, Lillian Jones, the beloved community organizer for whom the building is named.



“She is an agitator in the best sense of the word,” said Mary Ross, director of the Johnston Square Community Development Corp. Ms. Jones, now in her nineties, is a founding member of the organization.

The \$16 million project, made possible with funding through low-income housing tax credits, shows the importance of rental housing in stimulating the economy, creating jobs and revitalizing neighborhoods, Secretary Skinner said.

The energy efficient units will help hardworking families save money on their utility bills while the building’s proximity to Baltimore’s subway system will help residents save on fuel and transportation costs.

Affordable rental housing has become especially important in the wake of the economic downturn, Skinner said. To meet the growing demand for quality affordable housing and to help generate jobs, Governor O’Malley early this year asked the legislature for \$15 million for his Rental Housing Works initiative, which will provide gap financing for up to 20 additional affordable rental housing

projects next year, create more than 1,100 jobs and leverage \$285 million in additional investment. The legislature added \$2.5 million to the governor's request during the session that ended April 9.



*From "Community Review", the official blog of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development*