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CITY MANAGER
Curtis L. Holt

For Immediate Release

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**UNIQUE DONATION PROVIDES RARE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
FOR LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS**

Pre-demolition house gives hands-on experience for police and fire personnel

Wyoming, Mich., Feb. 24, 2010 – Local fire and police personnel are getting the opportunity to engage in invaluable hands-on training thanks to the unique donation of a vacant home slated for demolition early this spring. Local developer, The Granger Group, recently offered the home it owns at 5850 Wilson Ave. to public safety officials in Wyoming with the intent to provide them with a real-world location for fire and police training.

“This is an opportunity that does not happen all the time but when it does, it presents us with invaluable training,” states Bob Austin, Fire Chief for the City of Wyoming. “Although we have a great training center, it does not give us the opportunities that an actual structure, whether residential or commercial, can give.”

The Grandville Fire department, which has a long history of partnering with Wyoming on fire-related activities, is also taking advantage of the unique opportunity to train personnel and test equipment. In a community that experiences few house fires, Fire Chief Harvey Veldhouse recognizes the value this situation holds.

“These kinds of situations are fantastic. We’ve been able to use our rescue equipment to cut a hole in the roof, and the home is big enough for two crews. This hands-on training is much more beneficial for our personnel than using a book.”

After becoming vacant last year, The Granger Group scheduled the demolition of the house, which lies on the future site of their Silverstone development in south Wyoming. Before taking the structure down, Granger staff suggested the obsolete property be donated for training purposes. Having made similar donations in the past, most notably the former Metro Health Hospital in Grand Rapids, the idea to offer the home to local officials came naturally.

“We are so pleased to be able to partner with our police and fire in Wyoming and Grandville and help out with their training,” states Jason Granger, Director of Development with the The Granger Group. “We realize that resources are scarce in our communities these days, so it’s great to be able to leverage the



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opportunities that we do have. These kinds of public-private partnerships are critical to surviving in this tight economy.”

To date, both the Wyoming and Grandville Fire departments and the Wyoming Police department have taken advantage of the opportunity to use the vacant Granger home. Each will use the home several times throughout the month before it comes down to engage in the following types of training:

- Search and rescue
- Ventilation
- Simulated fires
- Forcible entry
- Room clearance
- Equipment testing

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