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**HOUSING LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY'S
SECOND HOUSING HEROES LUNCHEON A ROUSING SUCCESS**

Housing Heroes Award Winner: West Palm Beach Mayor Keith A. James;

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. – The Housing Leadership Council of Palm Beach County announced today that its 2nd Annual Housing Heroes Luncheon was a rousing success.

Almost 400 guests gathered on May 8, 2024, at the Kravis Center Cohen Pavilion in West Palm Beach to recognize individuals and organizations for their efforts to build workforce and affordable housing in Palm Beach County.

West Palm Beach Mayor Keith A. James received HLC's distinguished Housing Heroes Award. Since being elected Mayor in 2019, Mayor James has been working with city commissioners to create incentives for developers to build workforce/affordable housing for government employees like teachers and first responders. These efforts have led to the completion of the first new affordable downtown apartments in more than 30 years as well as securing several other projects currently under construction.

The follow award winners were recognized for bringing attainable housing to the county's workforce: For-Profit Developer of the Year: Affiliated Development; Not-For-Profit Developer of the Year: Habitat for Humanity of Greater Palm Beach County; Housing Impact Award: We Are Home Legacy Housing Project.

Keynote Speaker Jonathan Wolf, Founder and CEO of Wendover Housing Partners LLC, challenged the attendees to overcome ordinary obstacles that frequently deter builders from moving forward to build essential housing for the much-needed workforce in the county. He encouraged collaboration with public-private partnerships which are key to solving the housing crisis.

Christina Romelus, Director of Implementation for the Palm Beach County-wide Housing for All Plan, shared the latest statistics that were compiled from input from the County and municipalities: 884 completed units, 639 units under construction, and 1,543 units in pre-development stages. Romelus will continue to collaborate and assist the County and municipalities in drafting individual housing plans to bring more units to Palm Beach County.

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About the Housing Leadership Council of Palm Beach County: The Housing Leadership Council of Palm Beach County is a coalition of community leaders working to sustain the economic viability of the County by supporting financially feasible and sustainable housing opportunities for all residents through education, policy research and initiatives, advocacy, and facilitating partnerships.