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Muncie Housing Authority board member gets the job

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MUNCIE -- An outspoken member of the Muncie Housing Authority board of commissioners took over Monday as manager of the new Millennium Place development.

"My hope is this new community brings a more positive imagine to the area," said Gavin Greene, the new Millennium manager.

Flaherty & Collins Properties, Millennium manager and developer, hired Greene, 23, to oversee the growing Millennium neighborhood that replaces Munsyana Homes public housing complex on South Madison Street.

Greene resigned from the MHA board of commissioners last week, to take the new job. Mayor Dan Canan just named him to the housing board last January.

Duane Miller, vice president of Flaherty & Collins, said Green would be in charge of all local operations as more apartments and homes come on line.

"He is definitely a local leader that can help us tie all the systems together," said Miller, who also liked Greene's energy and enthusiasms. "He also knows the importance of this Millennium development."

Hoping to bring a sense of ownership to the new development, Greene said he would make sure the neighborhood was a place that "residents are happy to come home to."

Greene worked at Willco Wholesale Distributors and also managed the Locker Room, a local restaurant. His mother, Mary Spitz-Greene, is a planner for Muncie's Community Development agency and also has been involved in the Millennium development.

During his tenure on the MHA board, Greene questioned a development deal between former MHA Director Charles Weatherly and developers of Eastside Estates, an affordable housing subdivision. The board later nixed that deal, finding Weatherly had no authority to commit the MHA to the multi-million dollar deal with its approval.

The latest phase of Millennium includes 55 apartments that have features of Victorian-era homes are scheduled to open this fall. Miller said more than 100 applications have been made for the new affordable housing that is funded by a federal HOPE VI housing funds and other private monies.

The \$40-million-plus project should be completed by the next two years with more apartments and new homes in nearby Industry neighborhood.

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