

# Redevelopment authority to transfer property to Cross Keys

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The Fayette County Redevelopment Authority will turn over a long-vacated building to a Brownsville Borough organization.

In a unanimous vote of those present at Wednesday's regular meeting, board members approved a contract with Cross Keys Human Services Inc., a private nonprofit organization, to sell the 124 Brownsville Ave. property for \$1.

Cross Keys offers several services, including transportation, meals, and social services to those in Brownsville and Republic, according to its website.

Andrew French, authority executive director, said Cross Keys owns the adjacent property and seeks to demolish or rehabilitate the former "Dunlap Lodge" to protect its building.

"(The lodge building) is in pretty bad shape," he said. "It has been empty for several years."

The three-story brick building was constructed in 1920.

The authority purchased the property in 2009 as part of an initiative by the authority and the borough to revitalize the downtown area.

French added that the borough council had also given its authorization for the sale.

The contract allows Cross Keys six months to configure a plan for the property and an additional two years to carry out the plan.

The usage must be approved by the authority, according to the contract.

French said that the two-year timeframe would allow Cross Keys to raise funds to undertake the selected project.

Board Chairman Paul Bortz and members Dale Malinzak and Phil Michael approved the measure. Board members Jonathan Garlow and Dee John were absent from the meeting.

In other action, the board additionally approved a lease agreement with James Stepanik to use space adjacent to the authority office for his business, James Photographic.

The one-year lease includes a monthly rent of \$542.