

Reading Local Redevelopment Authority Navy Marine Center Update

- The Reading Hospital was to receive 6 acre plot and Mary's Shelter was to receive a 1 acre plot on the Navy Marine Center site, decommissioned by the federal government in 2005.
- In late 2010 The Reading Hospital and Medical Center became hesitant about the proposed project at the Navy Marine Center and withdrew from the project.
- In 2011 Mary's Shelter amended their original request for a one (1) acre parcel along Pershing Blvd and requested ownership of the main "L" shaped facility along Kenhorst Blvd. The LRA approved this request as the change will provide Mary's Shelter with the ability to expand their client care without building or moving into new facilities.
- In discussions with Mary's Shelter the LRA explored partnerships with several other organizations such as Alvernia and Berks Catholic; however, the HUD requirements for the complete rehab and reuse of the property within a short period of time became an obstacle that caused both organizations to back away.
- The LRA then began meeting with the Reading Redevelopment Authority to discuss their potential purchase of the remaining 6.06 acres. In meetings with the surrounding community the LRA heard their desire to make the remaining 6.06 acres some type of ratable residential use. The Redevelopment Authority supports this concept and will make an offer to purchase the remaining 6.06 acres for some type of residential and taxable reuse.
- The subdivision of the property created the need for a survey to set boundary lines for the Redevelopment Authority and Mary's Shelter. After the Navy sets the fair market value of the remaining 6.06 acres, the Redevelopment Authority will make an offer to purchase this property.