

VACANTS REVIEW PROGRESS REPORT



Project Brief: The City of Baltimore is implementing recommendations from the 30-Day Vacant Review directive issued by Mayor Brandon Scott. The directive was issued on January 31, 2022, and the recommendations were presented on March 1, 2022. This progress report represents an update on advancements made for the period of January through March of 2023 on operations, procedures, processes, and projects that help eliminate private and publicly owned vacant, blighted and unsafe properties.



PHYSICAL STRUCTURE AND SAFETY

- **Collapsed Roof Detection Project** received the Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) top innovation award for developing a cutting-edge artificial intelligence (AI) tool to detect collapsed rooftops. Developed in partnership with Carnegie Mellon University, the tool is helping flag buildings for emergency demolition and providing advance warning of dangers to first responders.
- **1162** Boarding Request created, 1145 completed.
- **69** properties identified as threats and emergency demolitions conducted.
- **40** planned demolitions (39 CORE and 1 City) - **60** stabilizations.
- **1452** Failure to Abate citations issued.
- **3,772** Cleaning Work Orders Completed

Requests	Created	Completed
Boarding	1162	1145
Cleaning	4071	3653
High Grass/Weeds	129	119



PREVENTION OF VACANTS & BLIGHT

- **In Rem foreclosure** - first judgments achieved (11) advancing the work of taking nuisance properties out of the hands of derelict and absent owners. In Rem reduces the time it takes to accomplish this from multiple years to a matter of months.
- **Emergency Rental Assistance** - DHCD provided an **additional \$3 million** for the program by identifying an opportunity to amend the CDBG-Cares Act funding award. This critically needed program reflects the partnership between DHCD and the Mayor's Office of Children and Family Services in supporting housing needs of city residents.
- **160** acquisitions initiated to prepare sites for redevelopment.
- **49** open bid applications received along with **6** side yard applications.
- **15** properties approved for sale by the Board of Estimates.
- **115** total licenses for green space have been issued.



FACILITATE REDEVELOPMENT

- **Expedited Grant Awards Process Established.** DHCD and the Office of the Comptroller established a streamlined process to put grant funds into the hands of nonprofit providers. BOE can now approve multiple operational CDBG grants from HUD in a singular vote. Previously, the BOE voted individually on as many as 70 separate grants. The first action under this new process approved over \$7 million in funds in record time.
- **Community Land Trust (CLTs) Awards** totaling \$2.4 million were announced for affordable housing projects and \$400,000 in operating support for Baltimore CLTs.
- **\$10,750,000** announced in Affordable Housing Trust Fund dollars for new construction or rehabilitation of affordable rental housing.
- **HOME-ARP Award** - DHCD hosted a public hearing to review the draft Allocation Plan to be submitted to HUD to access the City's award of HOME-ARP funds in the amount of \$15,456,082.



PROJECT ADVANCEMENTS/OUTREACH

- **Southwest Community Conversation** convened to discuss future development plans for the area. The community visioning process involves 7 neighborhoods anchored by the University of Maryland BioPark.
- **House America Goals** were exceeded by the City. Baltimore housed 1443 households and added over 2500 affordable housing units to the development pipeline. House America nationwide goals aim to reduce homelessness by 25% by 2025.
- **Urban Agriculture Public Meeting** held to discuss potential development of an urban agriculture project on city-owned property at Walther Avenue. Residents of Rosemont East and Overlea participated.
- **\$12.4 Million Secured for Chick Webb** - City received HUD approval for a Section 108 Loan Guarantee for the renovation and expansion of the Chick Webb Recreation Center.