

# 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 advancements made for the period of March thru June on operations, procedures, processes, and projects that help eliminate private and publicly owned vacant, blighted and unsafe properties.



## PHYSICAL STRUCTURE AND SAFETY

- Roof study partnership launched - Carnegie Mellon University's Data Science for Social Good Group will use our aerial images to find rooftops in distress and help the City prioritize demolitions.
- Collaboration with BCFD increased and DHCD vacant building information being updated into Fire Department CAD system.
- \$7.1 million in FY2023 budget for demolition and stabilization work, including personnel.
- 48 properties identified as threats and emergency demolitions conducted.
- 60 planned demolitions (38 CORE and 22 City) - 88 emergency stabilizations.
- 2172 Failure to Abate citations issued.
- 5611 Workorders Completed

Requests	Created	Completed
Boarding	1702	1449
Cleaning	3553	2983
High Grass/ Weeds	2001	1179



## PREVENTION OF MORE VACANTS

- The City removed all owner-occupied properties from the 2022 tax sale list.
- The City launched a Tax Sale Exemption program and set aside \$2 million to help applicants pay for liens against their properties.
- Increased funding of \$7 million was provided for Housing Upgrades to Benefit Seniors (HUBS), supporting older homeowners with needed repairs.
- \$3 million announced in support for Healthy Homes, supporting legacy homeowners through the creation of healthy, safe and energy efficient homes.
- \$1 million announced for middle neighborhoods support to help retain current and long-term residents.
- \$3 million designated for Emergency Mortgage & Housing Assistance Program.
- 41 Adopt-A-Lot licenses approved for green space.



## FACILITATE REDEVELOPMENT

- BuyIntoBmore launched; a single access point to invest in property in Baltimore City.
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) launched with \$2 million, identifying targeted abatement strategies to help reduce crime.
- \$15 Million investment announced for Impact Investment Areas - building assets and addressing blight with capital investment strategies.
- \$6 million announced to support affordable rental housing via the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- 109 applications received through Open Bid for city properties.
- 73 acquisitions to prepare sites for redevelopment.
- Negotiated a streamlined In Rem tax lien foreclosure process with Circuit Court, expediting acquisition pipeline.



## BLIGHT ELIMINATING ADVANCEMENTS

- Broke ground on Woodland Gardens development in Park Heights - site was previously 48 City-owned vacants. New development will be 75-unit senior apartment building for 60% or less Area Median Income.
- Kickoff for rehab of the next 36 abandoned homes in Johnston Square. This area on East Biddle Street is part of a City agreement where over 700 vacant and abandoned properties were conveyed for redevelopment.
- The next phase of Baker's View homeownership in Druid Heights began. This project accounts for the elimination of 41 vacant buildings and the creation of homeownership opportunities.
- Renaissance Row in Park Heights was completed. New construction of 84 affordable units where there were previously City-owned vacant row houses.