



Pittsburgh City Council

Office of Councilmembers Darlene Harris, Theresa Kail-Smith,
R .Daniel Lavelle, and Rev. Ricky V. Burgess

March 18, 2014

Dear Neighbor:

Over the last 30 years, the City of Pittsburgh has refused to take care of vacant land and abandoned buildings in our communities. As a result, parts of Homewood, the Hill, the Northside, Sheraden and Esplen have been allowed to crumble and decay, which has created a domino effect throughout the City of Pittsburgh. Now those outside of our community want to create what could be a Predatory Land Bank that will seize all vacant, abandoned and tax-delinquent properties. In the City, over 27,000 eligible parcels can be taken without any community participation and without any community benefit.

Therefore, we four Councilmembers have drafted a list of possible alternatives entitled the Community First Land Bank. This draft includes community benefits to protect our communities' interest in their own land and property. We have designed this Community First Land bank with the assistance and participation of various community based organizations. Please join us, at the Central Baptist Church, Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at 6:00 pm for a Citywide Land Bank meeting. We must come together and demand that all land banking activities make community participation, community protection, and community benefits a priority. It is time for the City to help rebuild our communities and prevent further exploitation!

What: City Discussion on LANDBANKS
When: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at 6:00pm
Where: Central Baptist Church
2200 Wylie Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Refreshments Provided

Sincerely,



R.Daniel Lavelle

Darlene Harris

Theresa Kail-Smith

Rev. Ricky V. Burgess