



News Release

Date: 7/6/2021

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Christina Kelly

Director of Planning and Neighborhood Revitalization

810-257-3088 ext. 527

ckelly@thelandbank.org

Genesee County Land Bank to demolish 37 blighted houses in Flint

The Genesee County Land Bank Authority will demolish 37 blighted houses with funding, in part, from a \$448,029 grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. Mott announced in 2020 that it would fully fund seven neighborhood projects and partially fund an eighth project — for a total of \$1 million — based on how residents voted to strengthen Flint neighborhoods. The grant to the Land Bank will fund three of the top eight projects residents said they wanted to see happen, including resident's top priority of tearing down vacant houses that are beyond repair.

After receiving the grant, the Land Bank used a public survey to gather additional input on how to prioritize structures for demolition with the funding given that roughly 1,550 blighted structures were on the Land Bank's unfunded demolition list. Based on more than 400 survey responses, residents asked us to prioritize the demolition of blighted houses that are: 1) directly next door to occupied properties; 2) in areas where more people live and where homes are occupied; 3) near open schools; and 4) fire damaged.

The Land Bank used this information to prioritize 37 dangerous, vacant, and Land Bank-owned houses to demolish with the grant funding. A qualified contractor was selected through a competitive procurement process to complete the work and a limited amount of match funding was secured from the Land Bank's general fund and through the City of Flint's Fire Insurance funds held in escrow to cover some costs on eight burned properties. The projects are now underway and should be fully completed this summer.

“Demolishing these high priority dangerous structures in neighborhoods will help to increase safety, restore value to surrounding homeowners, improve the appearance of neighborhoods, and create new opportunities for investment,” said Michael Freeman, Executive Director of the Genesee County Land Bank Authority. The Land Bank will continue to pursue funding to demolish the many remaining blighted structures awaiting demolition.

The list of addresses of the 37 structures to be demolished under this grant is available on the Land Bank’s web site at www.thelandbank.org. Residents can also look up the demolition status of individual properties at www.flintpropertyportal.com. Properties noted under “Demolition status” as Funded Demolitions will be funded with this or other grant funding. The status of any project may change if the project becomes infeasible.