

Biernat

Establishing the “Minneapolis/Hennepin County Collaborative on Vacant, Boarded and Tax Forfeit Buildings and Properties”.

Whereas, promoting the availability of affordable housing has been identified as a priority for Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis; and

Whereas, among the strategies available to address this objective is preservation of existing affordable housing stock, including vacant, boarded and tax forfeit buildings; and

Whereas, the largest number of such buildings in Hennepin County are located in the City of Minneapolis; and

Whereas, several City and County departments play a role in addressing preservation of vacant, boarded and tax forfeit buildings; and

Whereas, current City and County staff efforts to work cooperatively to preserve such buildings will be enhanced through establishment of a formalized structure and creation of a specific charge from policy makers to guide their work;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of the City of Minneapolis:

That the "Minneapolis/Hennepin County Collaborative on Vacant, Boarded and Tax Forfeit Buildings and Properties" be established.

Be It Further Resolved that the membership of the collaborative staff team consist of the Executive Director of the MCDA, the Director of Inspections for the City of Minneapolis, the Minneapolis Planning Director, the Director of the NRP, the Director of Hennepin County Taxpayer Services, and the Director of Hennepin County Housing, Community Works and Transit.

Be It Further Resolved that the staff team be charged with meeting on a regular basis to establish and monitor plans for all vacant and boarded buildings within the control of the City of Minneapolis (including the MCDA) and Hennepin County.

Be It Further Resolved that the staff team report on a regular basis to the City Council and Mayor of Minneapolis and the Board of Commissioners of Hennepin County.

Be It Further Resolved that the staff team also pursue the following tasks:

1. Maintain an accurate inventory of all vacant and boarded buildings in the City of Minneapolis;
2. Identify potential barriers to productive reuse of vacant and boarded buildings (e.g., zoning restrictions, building code requirements, contamination);
3. Devise strategies to prevent at-risk buildings from being boarded and to quickly return privately owned structures to productive reuse, drawing on private development interest where possible;
4. Develop criteria for public acquisition of privately owned, non-delinquent abandoned or boarded structures; and
5. Work to further streamline the tax forfeiture process by aligning City and County systems.