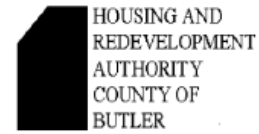


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Press Release

Redevelopment Authority of the County of Butler Set to Launch New County-Wide Blight Mitigation Program

Butler, PA, April 26, 2013: The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Butler is partnering with the Butler County Commissioners, the City of Butler, the City's Redevelopment Authority, and Local Municipalities in Butler County. Also, a public/private partnership has been formed with both NexTier Bank and Northwest Savings Bank. This partnership will result in over \$1,000,000 in new funding that will be available to target blighted properties over the next five years throughout the County of Butler. The Blight Mitigation Program is a multi-pronged approach which includes: prevention, education, enforcement, acquisition, housing and rental rehabilitation and demolition. The first phase of the program is aimed at demolishing vacant and abandoned properties throughout the targeted areas in the City and County of Butler. The funding sources for the program will come from the Neighborhood Assistance Program Tax Credits thru NexTier Bank and Northwest Savings Bank, County and City CDBG Funds and County of Butler Act 137 funds.

A blighted property is defined as any vacant or abandoned property with the following characteristics: unfit for human habitation, a public nuisance, structurally unsound with imminent danger of collapse, no utility service(s), and/or presence of vermin or a home for vagrants. Currently, there are estimated to be over 200 blighted properties located throughout the County of Butler. This program in the first year will begin to address and demolish some of these properties in the targeted areas. Additional areas will be targeted throughout the five year plan. Without intervention, blight will devastate these communities and lead to distressed statuses.

Goals of the program include: creating stronger and more secure neighborhoods, improve quality of life and create attractive places to live by eliminating dangerous substandard housing, reducing crime and drug related blight, promoting housing stability and stabilizing and increasing the tax base.

Housing and Redevelopment Authority County of Butler
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