



PROBLEM PROPERTY/WESTSIDE COMMUNITY RETENTION COLLABORATIVE

Goal:

To address Westside resident concerns on blighted properties, displacement and gentrification through the creation of a **Community Retention Plan** that will include vetted recommendations and strategies.

Current State:

Problem Property Collaborative will transition before the end of the year into the Westside Community Retention Collaborative to continue to work on problem property concerns and focus implementing community retention strategies.

Current Activities:

- Community Retention Plan:
 - Finalizing data gathering for existing homeowners, renters, and businesses to create a base level understanding of existing conditions.
 - Meeting with the neighborhood associations to hear resident concerns and gather their input.
 - Conducting stakeholder meetings to collect information on existing programs that could be used to address concerns within the community.
 - Working with community based organizations to conduct a renter survey.
- Stabilization Strategies:
 - Over 160 offers have been submitted to willing sellers for the acquisition of blighted properties.
 - Acquiring blighted properties: 60 properties acquired or under contract through Quest Communities, Inc. and Invest Atlanta.
 - Operationalizing the “in rem” foreclosure process: 14 lawsuits filed in English Avenue and Vine City to pursue code compliance from problem property owners.
 - Police Officer housing program through the Atlanta Police Foundation – Ribbon Cutting on first five homes occurred in October. Currently working to identify next 5 homes in English Avenue.

Moving Forward:

- Community Retention Plan
 - Conduct second round of community meetings to review recommendations and potential strategies.
 - Begin work implementing the community recommendations in the plan.
- Finalize the WFF Land Use Action Plan and secure adoption by City of Atlanta Planning and Development Dept.
- Increase the short-term supply of affordable rental housing through the acquisition and renovation of existing vacant small apartment buildings.
- Acquire 100 parcels of vacant and blighted property by the end of 1st quarter 2017.
- Atlanta Police Foundation to complete the redevelopment of 740 Cameron Alexander (Kennedy) as Youth Development center.

Collaborative Members:

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| ➤ APD Urban Planning | ➤ Department of Justice |
| ➤ The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation | ➤ Emory University Law |
| ➤ The Atlanta Beltline | ➤ Invest Atlanta |
| ➤ Atlanta Habitat for Humanity | ➤ Landbank Authority |
| ➤ Atlanta Housing Authority | ➤ Quest, Inc. |
| ➤ Atlanta Police Foundation | ➤ US Attorney’s Office |
| ➤ Center for Community Progress | |



WESTSIDE
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