



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 15, 2016

CONTACT: Amie M. Downs
412-350-3711 office
412-327-3700 cell
Amie.Downs@AlleghenyCounty.us

2016 Side Yard and Blighted Structure Program Application Period Opens

PITTSBURGH – Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald announced today that the 2016 Side Yard and Blighted Structure application period has opened. The program provides applicants in 45 municipalities the opportunity to acquire vacant lots and structures at a discounted cost through the Vacant Property Recovery Program.

“The Vacant Property Recovery Program is an important tool in our communities to allow residents, officials and others to take active steps to revitalize their municipality,” said Fitzgerald. “I’m proud that we’re able to offer this program for the fourth year in a row and that eight new municipalities have joined the program in the past year. With proper tools, such as this program, we can make a significant difference in our county and its municipalities.”

Allegheny County will accept applications from individuals, businesses, non-profits or government entities to acquire vacant properties in 45 municipalities which currently participate in the Vacant Property Recovery Program. Those communities are:

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Baldwin Borough | Bellevue | Blawnox |
| Braddock Hills | Brentwood | Carnegie |
| Collier | Crafton | Dravosburg |
| East Deer | East McKeesport | Edgewood |
| Elizabeth Township | Forward | Frazer |
| Green Tree | Harrison | Heidelberg |
| Leet | Leetsdale | Liberty |
| McCandless | Millvale | Moon |
| Munhall | Neville | North Fayette |
| North Versailles | Oakdale | O’Hara |
| Penn Hills | Plum | Ross |
| Scott | South Versailles | Swissvale |
| Turtle Creek | Versailles | West Deer |
| West Homestead | West Mifflin | West View |
| Whitaker | White Oak | Wilkins |

Applications must be postmarked no later than August 31, 2016. Up to 70 applications will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis with only five applications accepted per municipality in order to ensure that all may participate. Applicants must be current on taxes, water, sewage and refuse bills on all properties owned in Allegheny County. Applicants may not have any outstanding code violations or municipal liens on any properties.

“We’re proud to play a part in helping municipalities redevelop and revitalize their neighborhoods by offering this program through the department. In the last two years, we received over 400 applications

which reflects the interest and demand for the program,” said Robert Hurley, Director of Allegheny County Economic Development. “In that same time period, we have accepted 170 properties and conveyed 133 parcels which are now back on the tax rolls. This effort can improve the safety of neighborhoods, eliminate maintenance costs for municipalities and encourages community reinvestment.”

Enrollment in the Vacant Property Recovery Program is open to municipalities throughout Allegheny County and currently includes 62 municipalities. Discounts similar to the 2016 Side Yard and Blighted Structure Program are available on an ongoing basis to the other 17 municipalities that currently participate in the program. Those municipalities are:

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Braddock | Coraopolis | East Pittsburgh |
| Etna | Glassport | Homestead |
| McKees Rocks | Mount Oliver | North Braddock |
| Pitcairn | Rankin | Sharpsburg |
| Stowe | Tarentum | Verona |
| Wilkinsburg | Wilmerding | |

Funding for the program is provided through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, county general funds and applicant payments towards acquisition costs.

For additional information, or to request an application, please call 412-350-1090 or visit the Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program’s webpage at <http://bit.ly/2016SideYd>.

###

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

101 COURTHOUSE • 436 GRANT STREET • PITTSBURGH, PA 15219
PHONE (412) 350-6500 • FAX (412) 350-6512

