



October 21, 2016

To: Land Bank Board of Directors

At the urging of our members, PCRG's Vacant Property Working Group (VPWG) has advocated for the policies, tools, and resources that empower our communities to transform the challenges of blight and vacancy into opportunities for stability, growth, and inclusivity since 1996. The founding issue that has remained central to these efforts has been the fight for a community-serving land bank. The successful passage of legislation that created the Pittsburgh Land Bank in April of 2014 was not without struggle, but we're grateful that minority, labor, environmental, community development, and other leaders joined us to say - loud and clear - that **community is the priority**.

PCRG remains committed to fulfilling the journey that our members set out upon 20 years ago. To that end, we respectfully request the following:

- The Draft Policies and Procedures are released publically prior to the legislated 5 community meetings, allowing community organizations adequate time to review them and educate residents about the process.
- Representatives of the Land Bank Board of Directors meet with PCRG staff and VPWG representatives to review and receive feedback on the Draft Policies and Procedures and how they can strengthen and improve Pittsburgh's land-recycling system.
- The legislated 5 community meetings around Policies and Procedures are held no later than the end of February 2017.

We are thankful for the significant progress that the City, URA, and Land Bank Board of Directors have made in developing the required organizational and legal infrastructure needed for the Land Bank to function effectively. Vital to that are the Policies and Procedures that will govern the Land Bank's day-to-day operations, including the acquisition and disposition of property and how the land bank responds to and facilitates community priorities.

Community organizations and the residents they serve will undoubtedly be impacted by the activities of the Land Bank. It's important that residents are prepared to meaningfully participate in discussions about its Policies and Procedures. We are committed to ensuring that the priorities of our members and their communities are preserved, and that the Land Bank Policies and Procedures are created through a robust and inclusive manner that results in a transformative tool that truly serves - and is driven by - Pittsburgh's communities. This important process deserves no less.

ACTION-Housing, Inc.  
Allegheny City Central Association  
Allegheny Land Trust  
Allegheny River Towns Enterprise Zone, Inc.  
Amani Christian CDC  
Bellevue Initiative for Growth and Revitalization  
Bloomfield Development Corp.  
Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.  
Brookline Area Community Council  
Community Leaders United for Beechview  
Design Center of Pittsburgh  
East Allegheny Community Council  
East Liberty Concerned Citizens Corp.  
East Liberty Development, Inc.  
Economic Development South  
Fineview Citizens Council  
Etna Economic Development Corp.  
Fineview Citizens Council  
Friendship Community Group  
Garfield Jubilee Association  
GTECH Strategies, Inc.  
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh  
Hazelwood Initiative, Inc.  
Highland Park CDC  
Hill CDC  
Hill District Consensus Group  
Hill House EDC  
Hilltop Alliance  
Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania  
Larimer Consensus Group  
Lawrenceville Corp.  
Lawrenceville United  
Manchester Citizens Corp.  
McKees-Rocks CDC  
Mexican War Streets Society  
Millvale Borough Development Corp.  
Mount Washington CDC  
NeighborWorks Western PA  
Northside Leadership Conference  
Oakland Planning and Development Corporation  
Operation Better Block  
Penn Hills CDC  
Perry Hilltop Citizens Council  
Pittsburgh Downtown CDC  
Pittsburgh Housing Development Association  
Pittsburgh Project  
Polish Hill Civic Association  
Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh  
Ross Economic Development  
Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization  
South Side Community Council  
South Side Local Development Company  
South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association  
Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition  
Troy Hill Citizens, Inc.  
Tube City Renaissance  
Uptown Partners of Pittsburgh  
Urban Innovation21  
Wilkinsburg CDC



PCRG has consistently served as the leading partner and expert on policies and implementation of land-recycling activities in Pittsburgh, and for 20 years our VPWG and Membership have passionately championed land banking as a means to strengthen and improve these systems. The Land Bank is a critical tool needed to overcome the blight and vacancy that many of our communities continue to struggle with. Much work has been invested in creating the Land Bank, and we are very close. We need an operational Land Bank soon.

In continued partnership,

Ernie Hogan  
Executive Director

LaShawn Burton-Faulk  
Chair, Board of Directors

Aggie Brose  
Immediate Past Chair, Board of Directors  
Chair, VPWG

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| Allegheny Land Trust                   | Amani Christian Community Development Corp. |
| Bloomfield Development Corp.           | Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.                   |
| Economic Development South             | Fineview Citizens Council                   |
| GTECH Strategies, Inc.                 | Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh  |
| Hazelwood Initiative                   | Hill Community Development Corp.            |
| Hill House Economic Development Corp.  | Hilltop Alliance                            |
| Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania       | Larimer Consensus Group                     |
| Lawrenceville Corp.                    | Lawrenceville United                        |
| Manchester Citizens Corp.              | NeighborWorks Western Pennsylvania          |
| Oakland Planning and Development Corp. | Operation Better Block                      |
| Perry Hilltop Citizens Council         | The Pittsburgh Project                      |
| Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh         | Troy Hill Citizens, Inc.                    |

cc: Mayor Peduto  
Kevin Acklin

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