



City Manager Report

The City of **OKLAHOMA CITY**

NO: 874

DATE: JULY 19, 2016

TO: THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: ABANDONED BUILDING COALITION REPORT

In April 2015, the Planning Department convened an Abandoned Building Coalition (ABC) to explore strategies and provide recommendations to address vacant and abandoned buildings. The coalition included representatives from a broad group of stakeholders including local property owners, builders, developers, investors, neighborhood leaders, and state, county and local officials. The work of this group is summarized in the attached report

While the ABC was meeting and the report was being compiled, staff of various departments have been making improvements to the business processes for both the abandoned building program and other code enforcement activities. In addition, there are recommendations of the ABC which can be investigated with little financial investment and those will be undertaken in the near future. A summary of these actions is below, categorized by their subheading in the ABC report.

- Administrative and Regulatory Fees for Abandoned Buildings
 - A fee study will be conducted.
- Strategic Code Enforcement
 - Improved citation process
 - Issue citations more timely.
 - Escalate fines for non-compliance.
 - Pro-active neighborhoods for abandoned buildings.
- Alternatives to Conventional Boarding
 - This area will require more study as the identified solutions are costly and may require right of entry to property that the City does not currently have.

- Public Information and Data-Driven Approaches to Abandoned Buildings
 - OKC Connect App implemented 6/1/16. Integrates to Accela. Staff is continuing to work on other features to provide further details.
 - Voicemail discontinued in the action center to reduce confusion about complaints being received.
 - Continual updating of information available online
- Neighborhood Engagement on Abandoned Buildings
 - Will identify types of training that could be provided in partnership with Neighborhood Alliance for identification of code violations.

The attached ABC report also details other strategies that are more long term and have additional costs for implementation. Staff will continue to work on identifying legislative issues and programs that can be implemented as more funding is available to strengthen the City's focus on resolving the abandoned building blight.



James D. Couch
City Manager