



COUNTY OF ST. CLAIR



Office of the Treasurer

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St. Clair County Recipient of Land Bank Grant

St. Clair County, MI – St. Clair County Treasurer, Kelly Roberts-Burnett, in conjunction with the newly formed St. Clair County Community Housing Service Providers Partnership, has recently been awarded a technical assistance grant from the Genesee Institute to develop a County Land Bank Authority.

In early October, Kelly Roberts-Burnett met with representatives from the Metropolitan Planning Commission to discuss the issue of vacant, abandoned and tax foreclosed properties and their impact on St. Clair County's communities. As a result of these discussions, the Treasurer and the St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) hosted Genesee County Treasurer Dan Kildee to the MPC's Fall Workshop to discuss the Genesee County Land Bank Authority and their efforts to return foreclosed property to the tax roles and further develop property within the county. Nearly 100 individuals attended the evening workshop and feedback from surveys was positive.

"The purpose of a land bank authority," said Dan Kildee, "is to manage land obtained through foreclosure, gift, or purchase in such a way as to return those properties to the tax roll, when appropriate, to a higher and better condition than when received."

According to Kelly Roberts-Burnett, "My office is prepared to work in conjunction with a Land Bank Authority to prevent tax-foreclosure on area homes and assist with bringing tax reverted properties back into productive use."

Prior to submitting the grant application for technical assistance, the Metropolitan Planning Commission met with a consortium of community housing service providers to discuss federal government plans to assist local communities with foreclosed properties. "St. Clair County has seen a doubling of tax foreclosed properties each of the past two years and bank foreclosures are rising at an unprecedented rate," said Bill Kauffman, Director of the St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission.

The Treasurer along with the MPC plan to begin working next month with the non-profit Genesee Institute, the technical assistance grantor, to look at Land Bank Authority formation and program development, development of a Land Bank Authority Board and potential real estate development.

For more information contact the St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission at (810) 989-6950.

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