

City of Cincinnati



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Councilmember

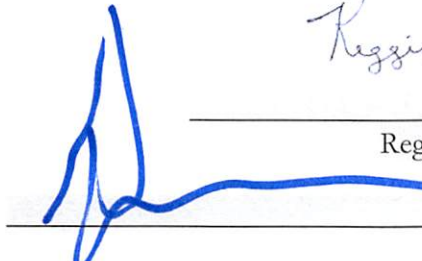

April 21, 2022

MOTION

WE MOVE that, Buildings & Inspections provide a report within sixty (60) days outlining best practices for identifying and registering vacant buildings to the Vacated Building Maintenance License (VBML). This report should also identify if necessary any additional resources needed to adequately inspect and enforce buildings which have already been registered. Buildings & Inspections should take into consideration available data sources for identifying at-risk buildings such as but not limited to: water shut off, foreclosure, postal service, tax delinquency, constituent complaints, and other sources.

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STATEMENT

Vacant buildings are not just a blight problem for our neighborhoods, but a serious missed opportunity for community building, affordable housing, and local property ownership. A critical component of the preservation and creation of affordable housing, and housing across the spectrum, is ensuring that old buildings do not fall into disrepair and can be ready-to-renovate when the conditions occur. Too often, out-of-town owners as well as others will allow just that to happen in the speculative process. Additionally, the blight unmaintained buildings incur on a neighborhood is harmful, and the cost of demolition-as-a-last-resort on the city is expensive and should be avoided at all costs.

B&I needs the resources to keep track of and inspect vacant properties to minimize the number of vacant properties going into disrepair. As of now, the process is largely through self-reporting and may only include as few as half of the total vacant buildings within city limits. We cannot begin to seriously address this problem until we have an accurate database of the problem at hand and can get buildings into the system that need to be.

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