



EDWARD J. LEONARD

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For Immediate Release

May 9, 2012

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Inaugural Meeting of County Land Bank Reutilization Corporation

Columbus, (OH) The first meeting of the newly formed County Land Reutilization Corporation (CLRC) will take place on Thursday, May 10th at 11:00 am in the East Conference Room of 373 South High Street, 26th floor in downtown Columbus, Ohio. The purpose of this inaugural meeting is to convene the new board and discuss future plans for the CLRC. The County's land bank will be run by the Central Ohio Community Improvement Corporation (COCIC) that has been in existence since 2005.

The land bank's mission is to target abandoned blighted properties that drag down surrounding values and to get these properties back to a tax generating status either through renovation or demolition. During its first year of start-up operations, the COCIC plans to develop channels and procedures to evaluate and acquire properties, processes for maintenance, demolition and rehabilitation of properties and to establish channels for the disposition of the properties. Steps to acquire properties will be taken with a plan for holding, either renovating or demolishing, and then disposing of the property.

After seating the board, the first order of business will be a resolution to authorize the COCIC to apply for up to \$8.2 million in matching grant funds recently made available to Franklin County from the Ohio Attorney General. The funds can be used only for the demolition of abandoned, tax delinquent residential property. The funds are from the national mortgage settlement reached earlier this year by the state attorneys general with five of the nation's largest mortgage servicers.

"The Attorney General's demolition funds combined with Mayor Coleman's demolition initiative in Columbus could be transformative for Central Ohio," said Franklin County Treasurer Ed Leonard, who will be the Chair of the COCIC's board. "This is a tremendous opportunity for the County's new land bank. We've put together a great team of highly qualified leaders to serve on the board and we're very excited to work with the Attorney General on this major project. We plan to use these funds to target properties both in the city of Columbus and throughout the County," said Leonard.

The County land bank will coordinate its efforts with the City of Columbus, which runs the largest and longest serving municipal land bank in Central Ohio. The County land bank will also work with other municipalities and townships to facilitate county-wide efforts to reutilize property.

The board members are as follows:

The COCIC Chairperson and first *Ex-Officio* Member is County Treasurer **Ed Leonard**.

Treasurer Leonard's designated representative is Reverend **John Edgar**.

The other three *Ex-Officio* Members are the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner **John O'Grady's** designated representative is **Eric Wagenbrenner**.

Commissioner **Marilyn Brown**'s designated representative is **Jim Schimmer**.
Commissioner **Paula Brooks** has no designated representative.
Boyce Safford, Sadicka White, and Robert Weiler will continue serving as Directors.
Two new COCIC Directors are **Robert Garvin** and **Carol Olshavsky**.

The corporate officers will be:
President – Reverend John Edgar
Vice-President and Executive Director – Joel Teafor
Secretary – Linda Craig
Treasurer – Todd Dieffenderfer

For biographical information on each board member, please contact
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