# Vacant & Abandoned Properties

1,000 houses in 1,000 days:

Community Update

December 7, 2015





#### Outline

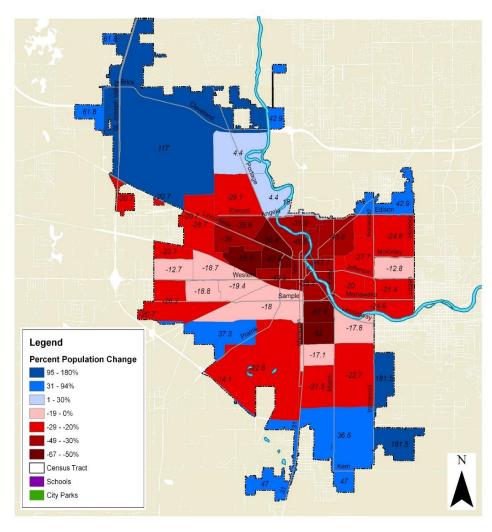


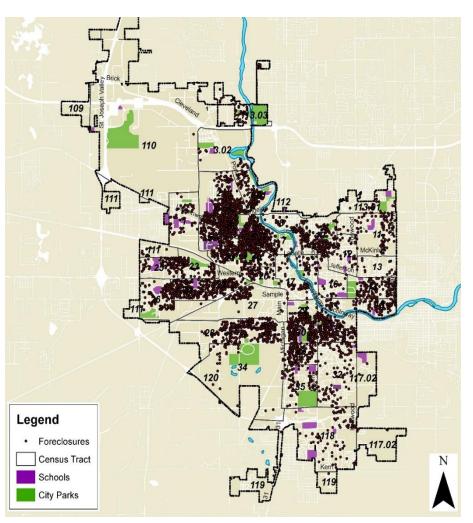


- " Where We Started
- " Reaching 1,000 House Goal
- " Where We Are Today
- " What We Heard
- "Lessons Learned and Path Forward

# A Growing Concern





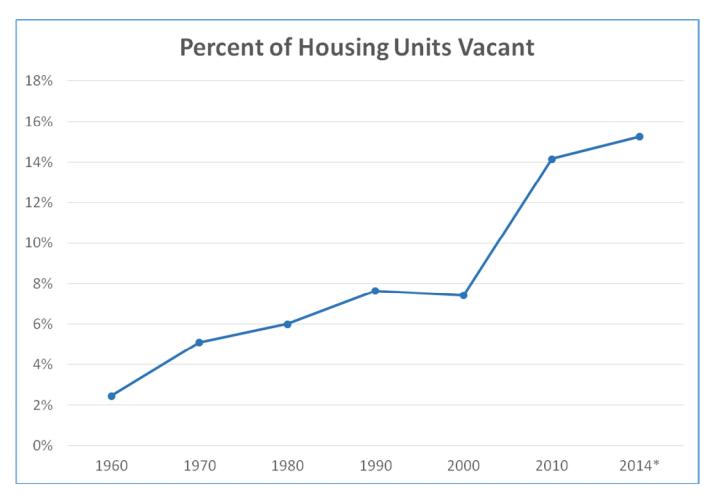


Population change, 1970 - 2010

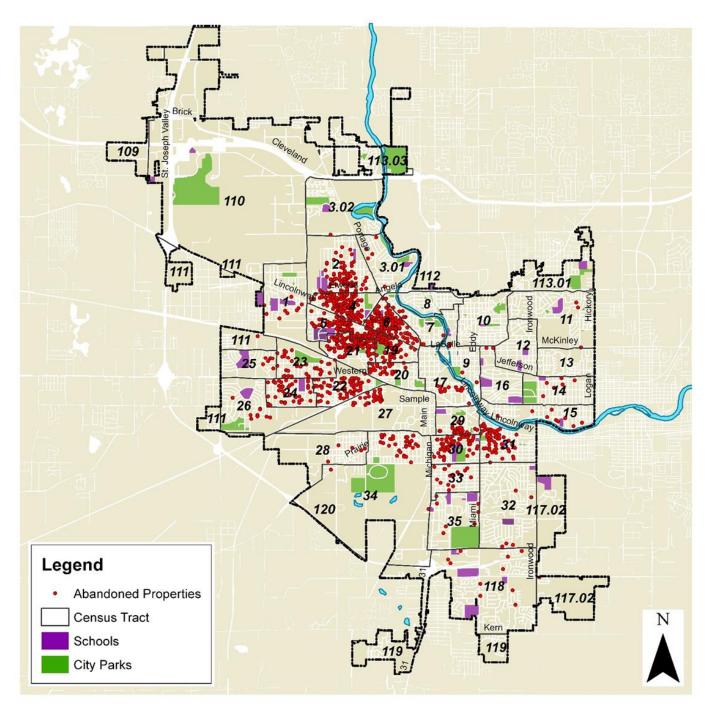
Foreclosures, 2001 - 2007



## A Growing Concern



Source: 1960 – 2010 Decennial Census; 2014 ACS 1-Year Estimate



Abandoned properties as of Feb. 2013

### A Growing Concern



#### Cost of Blight

- **Crime:** Austin, TX study found blocks with vacant buildings had increased PD calls:
  - 3.2X more drug related
  - 2X violence related
  - 1.8X more theft related calls
- Corrosive effect on neighboring property values
  - Houses < 150 feet of V&A property experienced net loss of \$7,627 in value in a Philadelphia study



Source: Vacant Properties: The True Costs to Communities. National Vacant Properties Campaign. 2005.

### Addressing the Issue

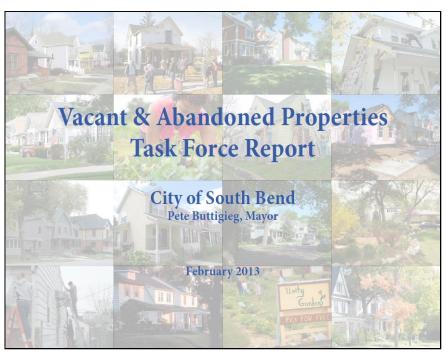


#### 1,000 Houses/ 1,000 Days

 Vacant & Abandoned properties are: houses that no one has lived in for at least 90 days <u>AND</u> has a housing code violation that has not been addressed for more than 30 days

#### - Myths:

- City owns all V&A properties
- " 1000/1000 initiative was only a demolition program
- City owns vacant lots after demolition
- City demolished occupied dwellings



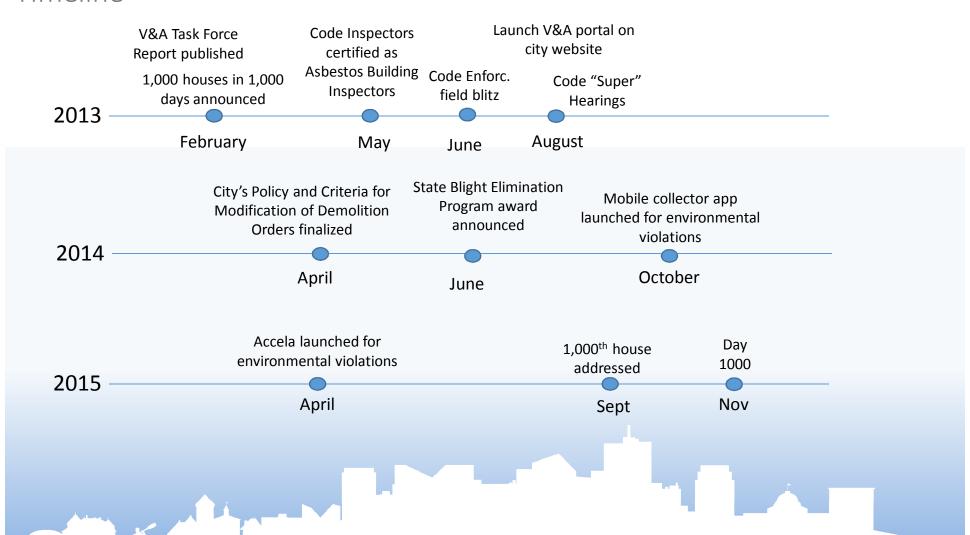
#### - Task Force Report

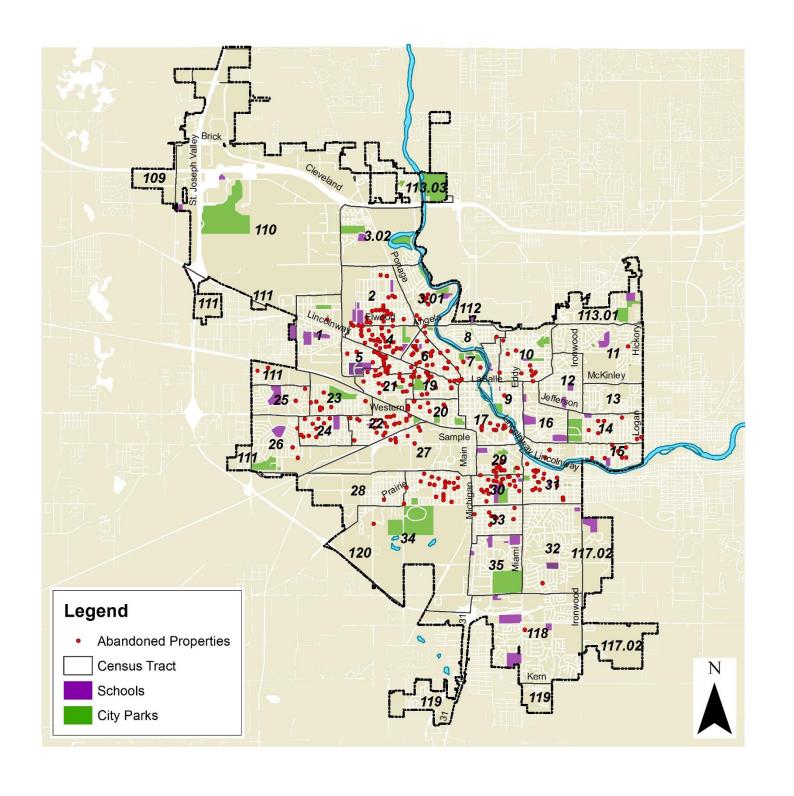
- Data Driven Decision Making
- Code Enforcement
- Land Banks & Tax Sales
- Resources & Reuse

# Addressing the Issue



#### Timeline



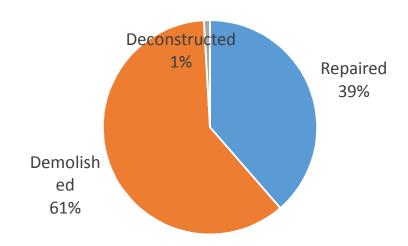


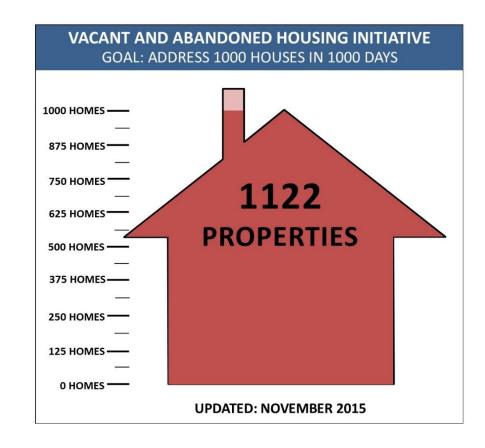
### **Key Outcomes**



#### **Count of Houses:**

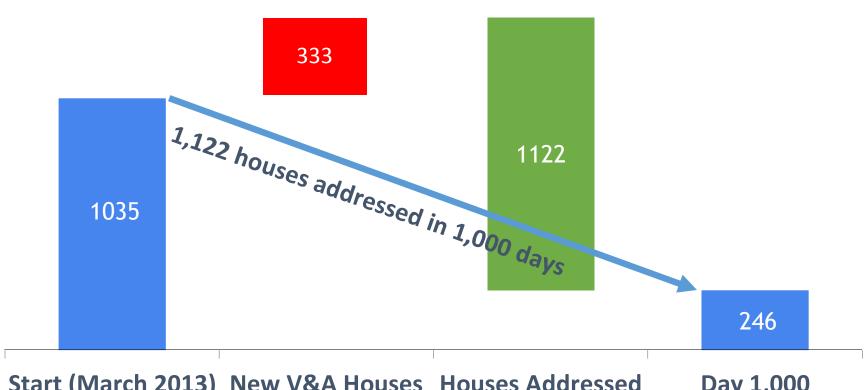
427 Houses Repaired
569 Houses Demolished
10 Houses Deconstructed
6CDC Partner Houses
0State Blight Elimination Program
0 Houses Under Contract for Deconstruction
110 Houses Under Contract for Demolition
1122 Total







#### Inventory of Vacant and Abandoned Houses

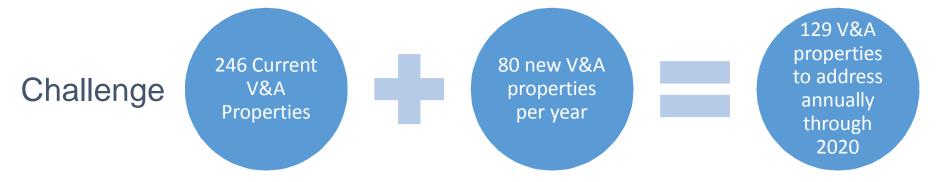


Start (March 2013) New V&A Houses Houses Addressed

Day 1,000



#### 1. V&A Houses: Now a manageable problem still needing attention

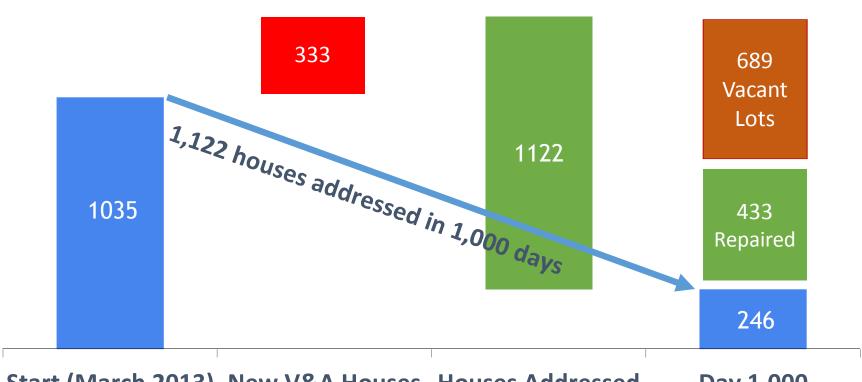


Addressing 129 V&A properties per year, at current demolition rate, would require 78 demolitions per year. In 2016 budget, \$500,000 will cover an estimated 33 demolitions without collections.





#### Inventory of Vacant Lots

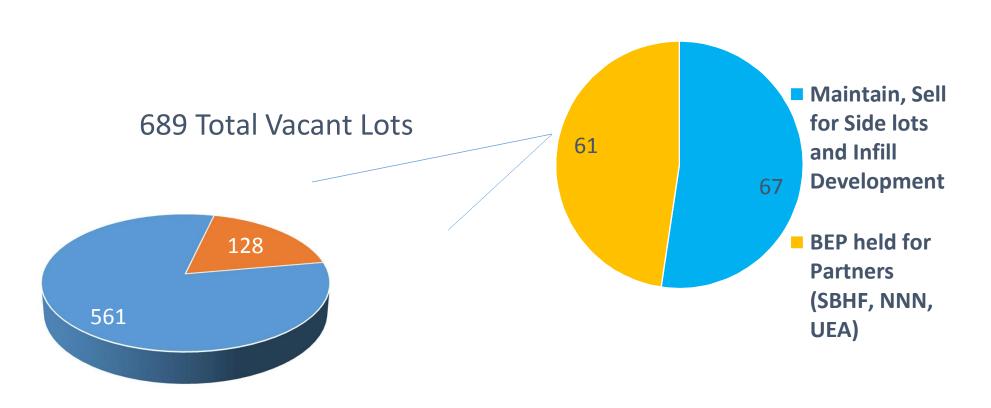


Start (March 2013) New V&A Houses Houses Addressed

Day 1,000



#### Interim Public Ownership



■ Privately Owned
■ To be Publicly Owned



2. Vacant Lots: A new challenge that requires varied approaches



Goals



Return Lots to Productive Use

#### What We Learned



ISSUE	CHALLENGE	RESPONSE/ADAPTATION
Reliable data is elusive but critical for program implementation	Paper-based Code department, Information dispersed in several locations; case management	<ul> <li>Created new, comprehensive list of abandoned properties categories by condition code</li> <li>2 week 'blitz' by staff to survey entire city Integrated quantitative and qualitative data into GIS mapping</li> <li>Information made available on-line</li> </ul>
Redundancy and inefficiency in certain existing processes	General operations and skills needed for scaled effort	<ul><li>Reorganized the Code Department</li><li>Certified as Asbestos Building Inspectors</li><li>Software upgrades to redefine Workflow</li></ul>
	Underutilized Unsafe Building Law as effective enforcement tool	<ul> <li>Shortened re-inspection         timeframe/process from years to months</li> <li>Introduced Hearing Process to increase         owner response</li> <li>Utilized Continuous Enforcement Orders</li> </ul>
	No formal process to allow repair for house with a demo order	<ul><li>Established policy and criteria for modification of Demolition Orders</li></ul>
	Effective implementation of bid demolition orders	Revised process to bid through BPW; enabled scaling of effort and coordination with utilities
	Inefficient collections process	Engaged collections firm

#### What We Learned



ISSUE	CHALLENGE	RESPONSE/ADAPTATION
Cooperative partnerships are essential	Information and processes straddle several levels of government	<ul> <li>Collaboration with County for focused land-transfers to City</li> <li>Integration of GIS / property data</li> </ul>
Ownership is central challenge	Disposition of properties; no land bank authorization in Indiana	<ul> <li>Psuedo-land bank to hold and maintain properties to be transferred/sold</li> <li>Partnership with County on tax sale transfers</li> <li>Opportunity Space site/ Process Mapping</li> </ul>

## What We Heard

FOCUS GROUP THEMES	DESIRED OUTCOMES	PROPOSED ACTIVITIES
Better communication on code enforcement and other city processes	Property Acquisition	FAQs on V&A/tax sale processes Explore new tax sale legislation with County User friendly interface to see city owned lots
	Responsible Home Ownership	Property Owner Responsibility FAQ's
		Resident Information Booklet
	Clear Code Enforcement Process	Code Enforcement FAQ's
	Clear City Processes	Materials explaining City processes
Improve interim conditions of remaining houses and vacant lots	Property Maintenance	DCI Consolidated Property Maintenance Neighborhood Enhancement Action Team
	Effective Enforcement	Change inspection fleet vehicles
		Continue enforcement of Unsafe Building Law
		Continuous enforcement
		Engage Collections Firm
		Improved Billing Process
Address unresponsive owners and non-local owners	Responsive Landlords	Landlord Registration Ordinance
	Responsive Neighborhood Investors	Landlord Licensing Ordinance
Increase Access to Resources	Prevention of V&A Houses and Vacant Lots	Pilot Programs (e.g. Vacant to Value Repair Grant, Targeted Exterior Repair Grant)
Reuse of Vacant Lots	Productive Reuse	Pilot Programs and Policies (e.g. Vacant Lot Competition, Targeted redevelopment efforts)



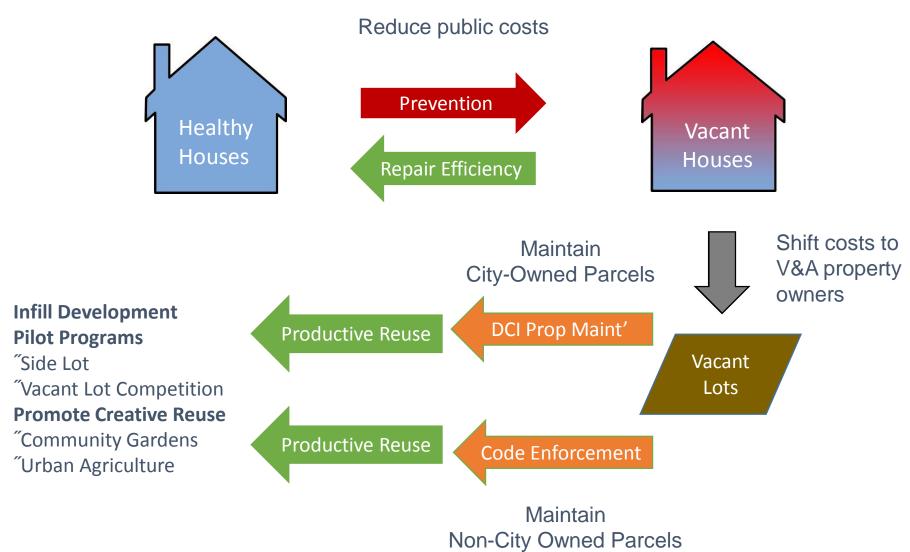
#### Objectives:

- 1. Prevent Future V&A Houses
- 2. Increase Repair Rate of Remaining V&A Houses
- 3. Reduce Public Costs of Demolitions
- 4. Maintain Vacant Lots during interim
- 5. Move Vacant Lots into Productive Uses











#### 1. Prevention and Increasing Repair Rate – Housing Programs

GOAL	OUTCOME	ACTIVITY
Promoting homeownership	IFALICATED BUVERS	Pre and Post Purchase Counseling; Homebuyer Education
	Home Purchase Financing	Principal reduction and closing costs assistance (Comm Homebuyers Corp)
	IACQUISITION/renan	Acquire, rehab, sell (e.g H4H,SBHF, NNN, etc)
	New Construction	Gap financing (e.g. Lincoln Park Dev)
Maintaining homeownership	Resilient Homeowners	Mortgage Delinquency/Default Resolution Counseling, Hardest Hit Funds (HHF)
Improving housing stock	IHOME Renair	Grants for specific repairs on a home (SBHIP, Ext Repair Match Grant)
Improving rental housing	IHOME KEDAIR & Maintenance	Landlord Registration Landlord Licensing
Managing code violations	IHOME KENAIR	Matching grant for code violations and other repairs (V2V Match Grant)

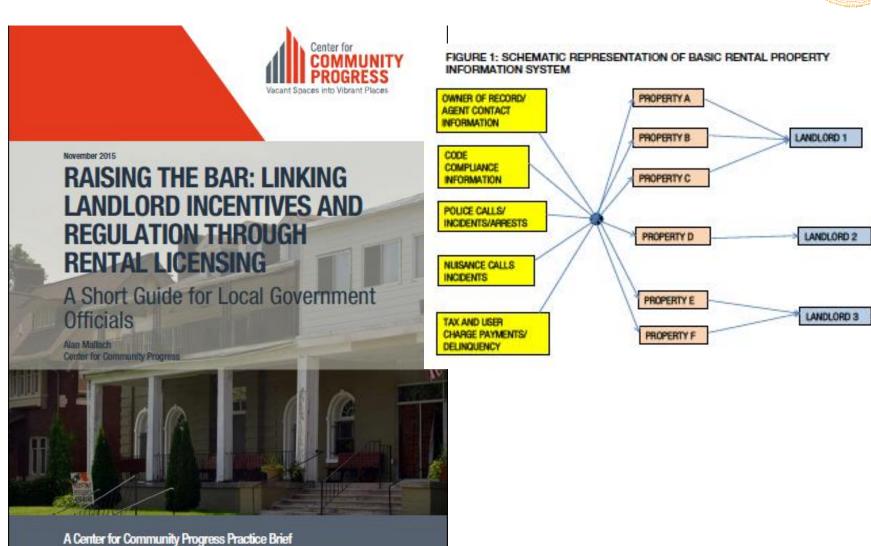


#### 2. Maintaining Vacant Lots and Returning to Productive Use

GOAL	OWNERSHIP OF LOT	ACTIVITY
Maintaining Lots	City-owned	DCI Consolidated Property Maintenance
	Non City-owned	Continuous Enforcement of Mowing and Illegal Dumping
Productive Use	City-owned	Targeted acquisition/pseudo land bank
		" Disposition criteria
		″ Development
		" Neighborhood Stewardship
		" Market Available Parcels
	Non City-owned	Engage private sector/residents
		" Information sharing on gaining ownership
		" Working w/County on V&A sale reform
		" Facilitation to CDC's for development
		" Side lot grants

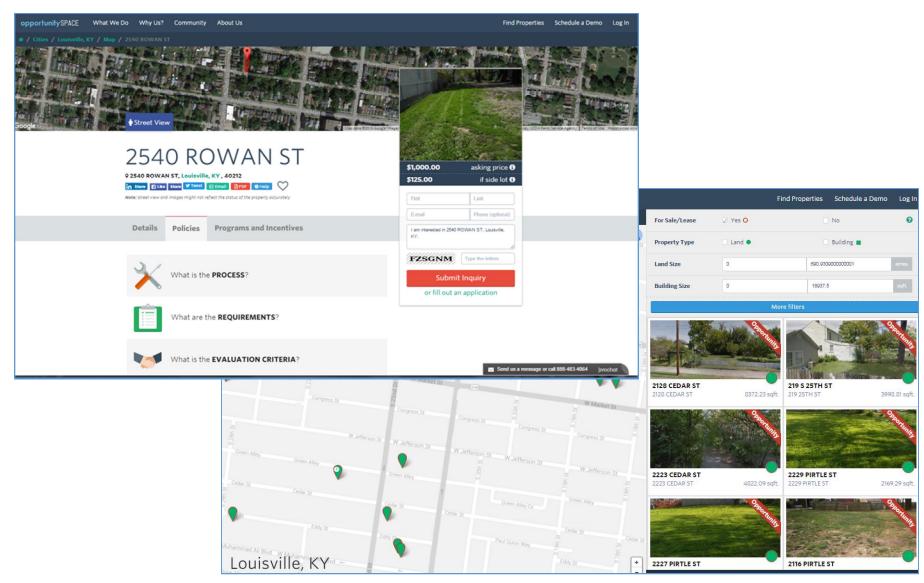














# To learn more about the Vacant & Abandoned

**Property Initiative visit** 

www.SouthBendIN.gov/vap

The Task Force Report is available at

www.SouthBendIN.gov/vapreport