

VACANT PROPERTY REVIEW COMMISSION

July 8, 2014

Council Work Session

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Background

- The Vacant Property Review Commission was created by ordinance to identify blighted and deteriorated properties, to certify properties that are taxed as "abandoned urban property", and to make other recommendations concerning vacant, abandoned, and blighted properties.

Commission Membership

- Chip Crawford, Builder
- Karen Deprey, Real Estate Agent
- Bill Johnston, Neighborhood Representative
- Martina Ockerman, At-Large Member
- Shevawn Akers, 2nd District Councilmember
- David O'Neill, PVA

Mission Statement



The mission of the Vacant Property Review Commission (VPRC) is to return vacant, abandoned, or blighted properties to their most productive use, utilizing all available tools, and leveraging public and private resources.

Goals



- Identify and categorize vacant, abandoned, or blighted properties.
- Develop programs and policies to return properties to productive use.
- Make recommendations to policy making bodies regarding vacant, abandoned, or blighted properties.

Tools

- Additional Taxation of Property
 - ▣ Must meet criteria for “abandoned urban property” and be certified by the VPRC.

- Eminent Domain
 - ▣ Must meet the criteria for “blighted and deteriorated” and be certified by the VPRC.
 - ▣ Any eminent domain actions require Council approval.

Website

- www.lexingtonky.gov/VPRC
- Includes information about the commission, meeting summaries, and a vacant property report form.



Property Database

- Database created based on:
 - ▣ Code Enforcement Complaints
 - ▣ Water Service Data
 - ▣ PVA Information
 - ▣ LexCall Complaints
 - ▣ Master Commissioner Sales
 - ▣ Properties reported to the VPRC

- The database continues to be expanded as new data sources are identified.

Outreach

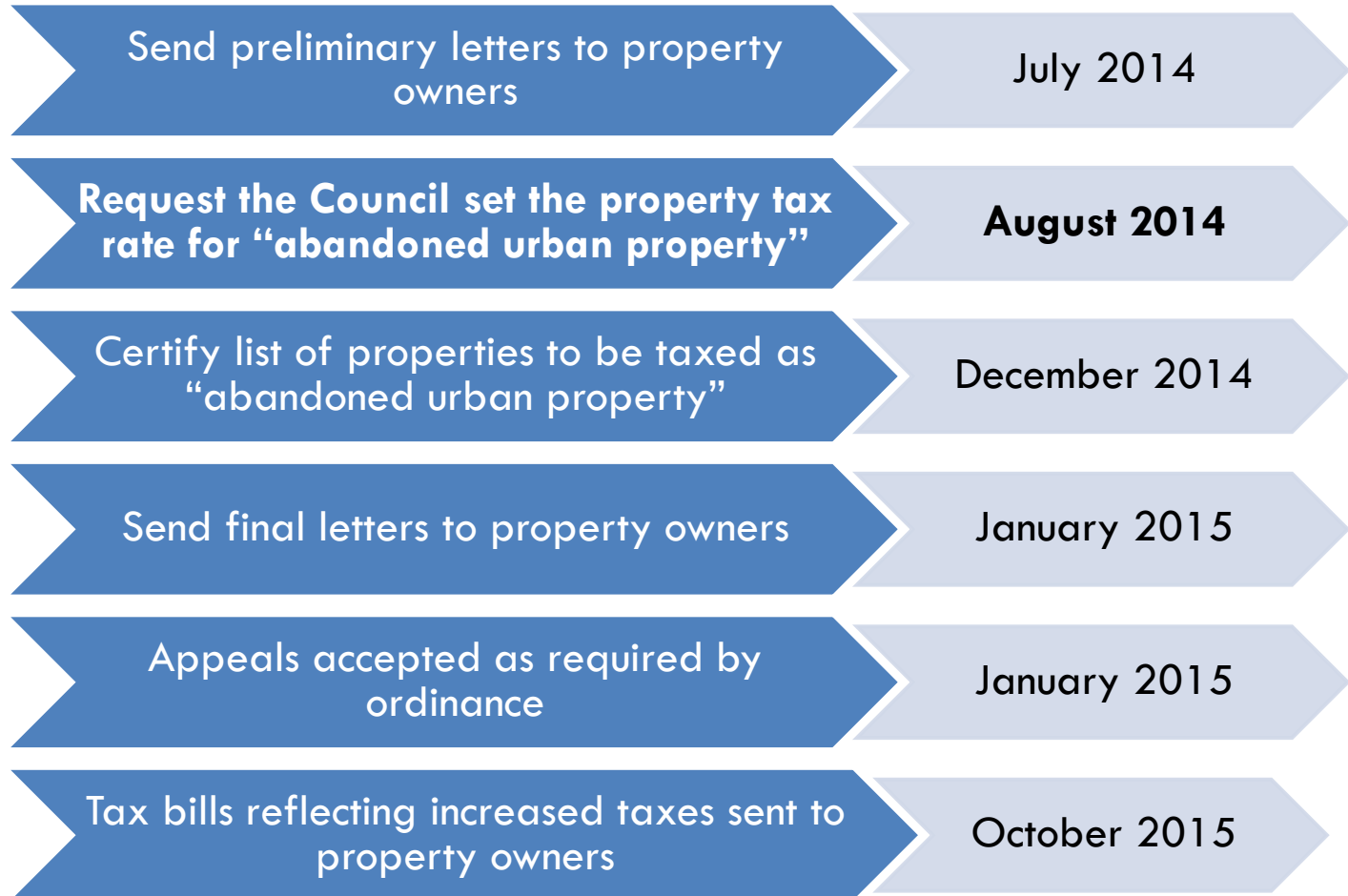


- Letters have been sent to stakeholders requesting vacant properties be reported to the VPRC.
- Stakeholders engaged include Council Members, neighborhoods, LBAR, HBAL, Police, Fire, Waste Management, Streets and Roads, Building Inspection, and Code Enforcement.

Preliminary List

- A preliminary list of properties has been developed based on properties reported to the city as abandoned, or those that lack water service and have code enforcement violations.
- This list will continue to be refined as the database is improved and more data becomes available.

Next Steps



Questions?