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## **FORECLOSURE and NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION:**

### **THE IMPACTS of FORECLOSURE on OUR NEIGHBORHOODS**

Foreclosure displaces families and burdens communities with increased crime, lower property values, and neighborhood blight. What are current or planned initiatives to stabilize our neighborhoods? What opportunities exist to make markets work for low to moderate income residents?

#### **PANELISTS & MODERATOR:**

- Jordana Barton: Vice President of Community Development, Capital One Bank (Moderator)
- David Danenfelzer: Manager of Development Finance, Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation
- JoAnn DePenning: Founder, DePenning Corporation
- Rory O'Malley: Director of Housing & Development, Frameworks CDC

#### **IMPACT OF FORECLOSURE ON NEIGHBORHOODS INCLUDES:**

1. Increased crime (vacant property)
2. Neighborhood blight (deteriorating buildings, weeds, broken windows)
3. Decrease in surrounding property values that creates strain on community by decreasing tax base
4. Predatory rescue scams that prey on our most vulnerable neighbors (elderly, disabled, lower-income)
5. Qualification for rental housing (for displaced foreclosed families) hindered by lower credit scores as a result of the foreclosure process and surrounding economic stress (job loss, unable to pay bills, etc)
6. Unstable family environments caused by stress of moving and financial strain, coupled with inability to find quality rental housing (creating added stress for children and elderly/disabled of foreclosed families)
7. Minorities and low-income households disproportionately impacted by foreclosure

#### **RESOURCES FOR HOMEOWNERS CONCERNED ABOUT AND FACING FORECLOSURE:**

FrameWorks CDC (offers free foreclosure counseling):

[www.frameworkscdc.org](http://www.frameworkscdc.org)

[www.homeownerstimulus.org](http://www.homeownerstimulus.org)

[www.makinghomesaffordable.org](http://www.makinghomesaffordable.org)

#### **RESOURCES FOR THE COMMUNITY**

Taxpayer information about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan: [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov)

Community Impacts of Foreclosure: [www.stablecommunities.org](http://www.stablecommunities.org)



Visit [www.peoplefund.org](http://www.peoplefund.org) for additional resources.

## **KEY WAYS NEIGHBORHOODS CAN PROTECT THEMSELVES**

### **Report Code Violations**

The City of Austin's Code Enforcement Department handles complaints associated with vacant properties (weeds/grass over 12 in, stagnant water, vacant or dangerous buildings, etc). If you suspect a code violation in your neighborhood, please report it to Code Enforcement by calling 3-1-1 or go to [www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/code.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/code.htm) to file a complaint.

### **Stay Informed**

The City of Austin Police Department assigns Commanders by geographic area to provide neighborhoods with regular updates on criminal and police activity in their command area. Go to [www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/comm\\_forums.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/comm_forums.htm) to find the next meeting date for your neighborhood Commander Forum.

### **Neighborhood Watch**

Join or start a neighborhood watch program. Participation in a neighborhood watch program can help reduce crime in your area. To be eligible for a neighborhood watch sign, it is preferred that fifty percent of your neighborhood or block must attend one to three meetings where helpful information on personal and property crimes is shared. Tips include how to reduce your chances of being attacked. Contact your neighborhood association president, or the Austin Police Department at 974-4736. Go to [www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/watch\\_03.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/watch_03.htm) for more information.

### **Get Involved**

Join your neighborhood organization to keep informed of trends and issues that are impacting your neighborhood. The City of Austin's Community Registry provides a listing of existing neighborhood organizations. You can also register a new group. Go to [www.ci.austin.tx.us/neighborhoodservices](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/neighborhoodservices) for information on Austin Neighborhood Resources, including crime statistics and crime prevention.

### **Keep Eyes and Ears Open.**

Report suspicious activity to police. Call 911, if there is an emergency situation.