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A Property on the Road to Rehabilitation

A Community Works Together to Move Forward

OMAHA, (Neb.) – To the relief of neighbors, the property at 2002 Country Club Avenue is finally on the road to rehabilitation. Through the work of City Councilmember Pete Festersen, the Omaha Planning Department and the Omaha Municipal Land Bank (OMLB), this property has just been acquired by the Land Bank and will soon be sold for redevelopment. “The purchase of this property perfectly fits our mission to transform distressed properties into community assets,” said Marty Barnhart, OMLB Executive Director. “And because we have a redevelopment requirement for all the properties we sell, we know this house will quickly become a beautiful home once again.”

Because the home sits in a prominent position on the corner of a major intersection in an established, historic neighborhood, Councilmember Festersen had heard from his constituents multiple times about the condition of the property. It sat vacant and deteriorating for many years, and provided shelter at different times to vagrants and raccoons. Neighbors were concerned about safety and their property values. The Omaha Planning Department was sympathetic, but was only able to cite the property with code violations and, potentially, an order for demolition. At a dead end, Festersen reached out to request the Land Bank’s help.

“We have hundreds of properties on the demolition list, but we also have hundreds of properties that are the one major frustration on an otherwise beautiful block,” Festersen said. “This is a great example of why we created the Land Bank and I’m really pleased it helped us finally get this situation addressed.”

Through the collaboration of these three entities, the property owner, Ms. Chaney, was eventually reached and the property is now getting ready for renovation. “I’m grateful that this property will be restored for a family to make new memories in,” said Ms. Chaney. “Thank you to the Omaha Land Bank for helping make that happen.”

A press conference will be held at 2002 Country Club Avenue on Wednesday, May 24th at 2:30 p.m. Councilmember Pete Festersen and Land Bank Executive Director, Marty Barnhart, will be available for comment. The property will be made available for purchase through the Omaha Land Bank’s website at www.omahalandbank.org. Applications for the property will be due on July 31st.

For more information, you can reach Councilmember Festersen at 402-201-9594 or Marty Barnhart at 402-201-2726 or martyb@omlb.org.

About OMLB

The mission of the Omaha Municipal Land Bank (OMLB) is to serve as a catalyst for transforming Omaha’s distressed properties into positive community assets. To do so, we will assess and acquire properties deemed no longer livable and either redevelop or demolish and start anew. It will take time, dedication and community participation, but opportunity will move in, one neighborhood at a time.