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Cook County Land Bank Authority Announces Vacant Property Holiday Giveaway & Sale
10 Vacant Properties Across Cook County Will Be Given to Community Groups and Neighbors

CHICAGO - The Cook County Land Bank Authority (CCLBA) today announced that they will be offering long-vacant properties throughout suburban Cook County and the City of Chicago at below market-rate, empowering residents, community organizations and local community developers to reclaim abandoned properties within their own neighborhoods while breaking down barriers that exist to access these properties.

From December 15, 2021, to January 15, 2022, individuals and community organizations can explore hundreds of available vacant properties and parcels and apply to have CCLBA take those properties to deed on their behalf. To kick off the program and catalyze community development, CCLBA will give away 10 vacant properties to the first 10 successful applicants that are community organizations or neighbors of the parcels. The available properties are located throughout Cook County, but the majority are located within the following community areas:

Cook County: Calumet City
 Hazel Crest
 Markham
 Riverdale

City of Chicago: Englewood
 North Lawndale
 Roseland
 West Pullman

“For too long, thousands of vacant and abandoned properties have sat in limbo, accumulating back taxes while hurting our communities. Property ownership is an important tool for building community wealth, bolstering economic vibrancy and attracting investment,” said Toni Preckwinkle, President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners. “I applaud the Cook County Land Bank Authority for proactively combating blight in our neighborhoods by reclaiming these properties and putting them in the hands of community organizations and residents who are committed to breathing new life into long vacant homes and parcels.”

“We've witnessed firsthand the impact when we give community members and local developers the tools needed to return abandoned parcels that depress home values and drain community wealth back to productive use,” said Eleanor Gorski, Executive Director of CCLBA. “This sale is one step in the right direction toward putting properties into the hands of Cook County’s residents and community organizations.”

By offering these parcels, CCLBA will address complicated legal filings and costs that often discourage community members from attempting to acquire vacant properties and put them back to productive use. This program will strengthen communities across Cook County by transforming vacancy into equity, improving residents’ quality of life and the economic vibrancy of their neighborhoods.

Properties will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information and instructions on how to apply to purchase a property, please visit bit.ly/cclbaholiday.

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About the Cook County Land Bank Authority

The Cook County Land Bank Authority, an independent agency of Cook County, was founded by the Cook County Board of Commissioners in 2013 to address residents and communities hit hard by the mortgage crisis. CCLBA gives local developers, community groups and potential homeowners the tools to transform their own communities from within. The Land Bank acquires properties that have sat tax-delinquent, abandoned and vacant for years and sells them at below-market rates to qualified community-based developers, who then rehab the properties. This approach not only keeps revenue and jobs in the community, but it also helps local developers grow their businesses. Learn more about the Cook County Land Bank Authority at <http://www.cookcountylandbank.org> or email info@cookcountylandbank.org.