

# Executive Director Report

July 24, 2014

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## Overview

- Report is intended to inform board and interested parties of our progress in moving the Cook County Land Bank Authority forward.
- Report summarizes progress to date on 5 key objectives:
  - Improving CCLBA capacity
  - Identifying strategic opportunities
  - Engaging in transactions
  - Developing our data analytics
  - Acting on larger priorities



# 1. Improve CCLBA Capacity

- Interviews for Construction Manager and Planning Analyst have started. Next positions to fill are Asset Manager and Acquisition Specialist. New hires will exceed space availability at current location.
- CCLBA space options include renting alternative space at 140 S Dearborn, relocating to a county property, or renting at a third location. Considerations include cost, proximity to partners, and the ability to house staff and stakeholders in a location that is conducive to our long-term success.
- Improved website launch planned for end of August.
- CCLBA is reviewing its 2014 expenses against budget and developing a 2015 budget. CCLBA forecasts a significant increase in operating revenue for 2015, reflecting donations on properties, sales, and fees.



# 2. Identify Strategic Opportunities

- Deconstruction Toolkit has been received and provides good insights into how to repurpose blighted properties for salvage and reuse.
- CCLBA continues to proceed slowly on new acquisitions as it refines its approach. In July, we have accepted 2 new donations. Focusing on managing and disposing of current inventory.
- Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative coming to Chicago
- July 24 stakeholder outreach event attracted over 130 RSVPs.
- eProperty Plus install scheduled for August 11



## 3. Engage in Strategic Transactions

- CCLBA evaluated a portfolio of 108 properties in Cook County and Chicago, of which ~85% are currently candidates for deconstruction or demolition. Currently negotiating on possible acquisition with cash.
- CCLBA continues to work on a streamlined donation process for vacant lots, which can be conveyed quickly for community purposes.
- Developing agreements with nonprofit and municipal partners to leverage CCLBA with Hardest Hit Funds and Abandoned Property Program, both through IHDA.
- Exploring collaboration with City of Chicago to increase capacity of community partners working on targeted neighborhood recovery efforts.



## 4. Develop Data Tools

- Identifying mapping needs and partnering with Cook County GIS and others: examples include map of Cook County vacant land for solar pathways grant and pending request for vacant land proximate to waterways.
- Working with Smart Chicago Collaborative to develop online tools for residents and organizations interested to research properties for acquisition and redevelopment. (July 24 presentation).
- Preparing for install of eProperty Plus in August.



## 5. Act on Larger Priorities

- Deconstruction/Soft-stripping/demolition toolkit should lead to increased contracting around this.
- Workforce development through deconstruction is on the radar.
- Developing partnership agreements with community partners and municipal governments to facilitate our involvement and ensure alignment to local priorities and needs.



## Discussion