

## Indianapolis To Discuss Land Bank Concept

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INDIANAPOLIS - The City of Indianapolis will be providing its expertise on the use of its Land Bank to help eliminate the harm created by vacant, abandoned and tax delinquent properties at a conference in Albuquerque later this week.

Director of the Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD), Maury Plambeck will make a presentation to the Smart Growth Conference this Friday. The conference brings together a variety of public and private stakeholders to network and share strategies for smart growth on a variety of economic and environmental issues ranging from global warming to flooding and housing foreclosures to food scarcity.

"I think it speaks well to the efforts that we have made to combat abandoned housing in Indianapolis," said DMD Director Plambeck.

"Certainly it's a daunting task but we are not the only city in the country having these problems and it's good to know we are doing something that other cities want to hear about."

Some of the highlights Plambeck will present include the elimination of violators of the city's unsafe building law to bid on or acquire any additional properties at tax sales, the City's land bank website and the sale of distressed properties to non-profits and sworn officers for \$2,500.

The land bank allows the city to strategically acquire properties that can be useful for community or economic development. The timeline of acquisition has been streamlined so properties can be quickly returned to productive use.

Source: City of Indianapolis