

**What: City Council Public Hearing and Post-Agenda Meeting on  
Landbanks**

**WHEN: Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 1:00 P.M.**

**WHERE: Pittsburgh City Council Chambers, City-County  
Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**COME SUPPORT**

**Councilman Rev. Burgess' Plan for Land Bank Community Benefits**

- 1. Low- and moderate-income residents, community groups and churches plan the future of their communities;**
- 2. Low- and moderate-income residents and community groups headquartered within low- and moderate-income communities have a clear and mandated role in land-use decisions;**
- 3. Low and moderate income members and community-based organizations headquartered within the Land banked communities be contracted to maintain the land in their own communities and the residents within these neighborhoods be employed to do the property maintenance;**
- 4. City Council Members, as the community representative, MUST approve every Land Bank transaction because residents deserve to know who they can hold accountable for what happens in their neighborhoods;**
- 5. The Land Bank's Board of Directors must have residents from low- and moderate-income communities.**

**IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK AT THE PUBLIC HEARING,  
PLEASE CALL THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AT:  
412-255-2138 BY 10A.M. ON FEBRUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>.**



Office of Councilman Rev. Ricky Burgess  
Pittsburgh City Council, 9th District

January 30, 2014

Dear Neighbor:

Over the last 30 years, the City of Pittsburgh has refused to take care of vacant land and abandoned buildings in our community. As a result Homewood, Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar, Garfield and East Hills have been allowed to crumble and decay. So today, 50% of our land is vacant, abandoned or tax-delinquent. Instead of taking care of the vacant lots and securing abandoned homes in our communities, the City of Pittsburgh spent its money on wealthy neighborhoods like Southside, Shadyside and Squirrel Hill.

Now the City of Pittsburgh wants to create a **Predatory Land Bank** that will seize all vacant, abandoned and tax-delinquent properties. In the East End over 8,000 eligible parcels can be taken without any community participation and without any community benefit. This is a land grab. The BIGGEST land grab in the City's history! Homewood, Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar, Garfield and East Hills have acres and acres of valuable, vacant land in the City of Pittsburgh. I do not believe those outside our communities should have the power to steal our land and decide the future of our neighborhoods.

We have lived through and watched as for decades the City intentionally neglected our neighborhoods and now we deserve to be a part of any City reward. We deserve Community Benefits from any Land Bank activities. I will propose Land Bank Community Benefits to protect our communities' interest in our own land and property. We the residents deserve the right to determine the future of our own neighborhoods.

Please join me in City Council Chambers, Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 1:00 pm during City Council's Public Hearing and Post-Agenda Meeting to demand **your** Land Bank Community Benefits. This may be our last chance to stand up for our community before it is stolen from us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Ricky V. Burgess".

Rev. Ricky V. Burgess