



# Liveable Neighborhoods

*Government and Neighborhoods in Partnership*



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## **Liveable Neighborhoods Board of Directors**

Feb. 7, 2013

### **2013 Executive Committee**

Paul Soptick, President  
Carole Newton, Vice Pres.  
Lou Braswell, Secretary  
Kirk Suther, Treasurer  
Kim Hausback  
Ed Linnebur  
Greg Talkin

To: House Local Government Committee  
From: Mary Jane Johnson, Liveable Neighborhoods Ex. Director  
RE: HB 2075

### **Neighborhood Representatives**

Betty Wells  
Patty Orth  
Evelyn Larson  
Carole Newton  
Don Ash  
Virginia Chiles  
Bill Boster  
Beverly Darby  
Lou Braswell  
Kim Hausback  
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Wendy Wilson  
Ed Linnebur  
Barbara Kill  
Ty Lewis

Abandoned vacant housing is a significant problem in many communities including Kansas City, Kansas. The number of abandoned properties has increased in the last few years due to the current economic climate. However, the problem of abandoned properties is not new. Last year, the Kansas legislature passed a law to assist with blighted commercial real estate property. We believe that a similar change in the law would be a good tool for an organization or governing body to receive ownership of a blighted residential abandoned property which then could be rehabbed.

### **Government/ Professional Representatives**

Pam Curtis  
Linda Wolford  
Captain Victor Webb  
Melissa Bynum  
Tom Lally  
Steve Curtis  
Joe Dick  
Wilba Miller  
Kirk Suther  
Chandtra Ward  
Cecilia Ysaac-Belmares

Under HB 2075 the governing body of the city can file a petition and designate an organization to rehab the property which can then be used for housing, community development or economic development.

The city will send notice to the parties of interest on the property by certified mail to the last known address and post the property at least 20 days but not more than 60 days before the petition is filed. If an owner can be found it is likely that the prospect of a receivership may encourage the owner to take responsibility. If a negotiated arrangement cannot be achieved at this phase a petition can be filed seeking the appointment of a receiver who can under court supervision take steps to rehab the property.

### **Executive Director Mary Jane Johnson**

The appointment of a receiver works whether or not an owner is located. A receiver under HB 2075 is an organization or governing body of any city appointed by the court to take steps to rehab and bring the property back to code.

### **Neighborhood Liaison Andrea Generaux**

Liveable Neighborhoods represents 100 plus organized neighborhood groups in Kansas City, Kansas. This type of legislation would be a useful tool to help neighborhoods with cases where the owners walk away from properties rather than maintain them and the properties sit vacant subject to vandalism and illegal activity. They are an eye sore for neighbors and present a considerable public safety risk to the community.

House Local Government  
Date 2-7-13  
Attachment 7