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CLR e-Briefs

A legal information resource for Community Legal Resources' clients

July 15, 2004

"CLR e-Briefs" is intended to introduce important legal topics that may be of interest to Community Legal Resources' clients.

This edition offers information on the new Michigan State Land Bank Fast Track Authority and a recent study showing affordable housing is one of voters' top concerns.

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Michigan State Land Bank Fast Track Authority

The board of directors of the Michigan State Land Bank Fast Track Authority (LBFTA) met

for the first time on July 7, 2004 in Lansing. The LBFTA was authorized by legislation signed by Governor Jennifer Granholm in early 2004. Recently, appointments were made to three of the four open seats on the LBFTA. These three appointments were:

- Stacy Fox, Visteon Corporation
- George Jackson, Detroit Economic Growth Corporation
- Nicole Lamb-Hale, Law Firm of Foley & Lardner

The three members of the LBFTA named in the authorizing legislation are the directors of the Michigan Economic Growth Corporation, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth. The seventh member of the LBFTA is yet to be named by the Governor.

At its first meeting, the LBFTA elected its chair and vice-chair, Rick Laber of MSHDA and Stacy Fox of Visteon, respectively. In addition, the LBFTA board adopted bylaws for its operation and approved an intergovernmental agreement authorizing the Genesee County Land Bank. Future meetings will likely include discussion of LBFTA staffing and contracting, budgeting, the creation of an advisory committee to the LBFTA, policies and procedures for disposition of LBFTA land, and title issues.

For those who received land from the "Revitalife" program that transferred state-owned surplus property in Wayne County, note that the LBFTA is the body that will determine the future of such land and any "Revitalife"-like program.

The next meeting of the LBFTA board is scheduled for Wednesday, August 11 at 2 p.m. Future meetings are expected to be held at 2 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month. All LBFTA meetings are open to the public. An opportunity for public comment will be provided at all meetings.

Affordable Housing One of Voters' Top Concerns

National Association of Realtors 2004 National Housing Opportunity Pulse Survey

Two out of three Americans are so concerned about the cost of housing in their communities that they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who works to make housing more affordable, according to the second National Housing Opportunity Pulse survey.

The survey shows that 70 percent of urban and suburban respondents in the top 25 media markets would like government to place "a higher priority on making housing -- both for renters and homeowners -- more affordable" in their areas. The number willing to support more construction of affordable housing raises to 81 percent if the homes fit the area and look good. At the same time, the survey reveals that support for more affordable homes declines slightly the closer they would be built -- from 76 percent "in my community," to 72 percent "in my neighborhood," to 66 percent "on my street," and to 63 percent "next door to my home."

For more results from this survey, visit the [National Association of Realtors website](#).

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