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Connecting Lawyers and Communities

CLR e-Briefs

A legal information resource for Community Legal Resources' clients

January 19, 2005

WELCOME to the second year of *CLR e-Briefs*. We hope these short updates continue to serve you in your work.

Please note that if you prefer not to receive future issues of CLR e-Briefs you may click on "Safe Unsubscribe" at the bottom of this e-mail.

Washington Post Reports Risk that HUD's Community Efforts Will be Drastically Cut

A January 14, 2005, Washington Post article, "[Bush Plans Sharp Cuts in HUD Community Efforts](#)," reported that a proposal in the upcoming 2006 budget "will seek to drastically shrink the Department of Housing and Urban Development's \$8 billion community branch, purging dozens of economic development projects, scrapping a rural housing program and

folding high-profile anti-poverty efforts into the Labor and Commerce departments."

The article went on to state that **"Congressional housing aides say the \$4.7 billion Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program could be cut as much as 50 percent."**

Looking for Inspiration?

Consider What is Happening in Other U.S. Cities

As CLR staff work to identify new and effective strategies that might serve Michigan communities, we come across reports regarding communities across the U.S. Listed below are a few of those cities and links to the reports or stories that interested us.

New Orleans

Many stories are coming out of New Orleans as the Mayor announces a new neighborhood redevelopment strategy. There are interesting parallels between New Orleans and some of Michigan's cities.

[Blight-Reduction Plan Would Replace Thousands of Homes](#)

Dallas

A recent story out of Dallas highlighted its failure to capitalize on the existence of community developers in the city.

[Dallas Fails to Capitalize on Community Developers](#)

Philadelphia

For the last few years, stories have been coming out of Philadelphia highlighting that city's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative (NTI). A recent story recounted the achievements of NTI in its 2 1/2 years of operation.

[Street's Fight Against Blight Proceeds Ahead of Schedule](#)

And don't forget our own Genesee County

The Genesee County Land Bank was highlighted in a recent Michigan Land Use Institute article.

[Land Bank Goes to Work on Flint](#)

Fact Sheet: Title Problems

A New CLR *Legal Lines*

Despite the fact that many of us are regularly discussing the cost and effect of "title problems," we've found that there is not a simple document describing what we mean when we say "title problems."

Now there is. CLR has developed a new *Legal Lines*, [Fact Sheet: Title Problems](#). This document defines "title," "clouded title," and "title insurance" but also attempts -- in 3 pages or less -- to explain how we got to a place where "title problems" are regularly discussed among urban real estate developers.

This 2 1/2 page *Legal Lines* compliments CLR's more extensive 2003 [Title Manual](#), which is still available in pdf form on our [website](#).

If you have questions about clearing clouded title, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Finally ... A Reminder That It Is the Season of Tax Foreclosures

For those of you caught by surprise by how fast "tax foreclosure season" came around in 2004, it's back again in 2005. Properties delinquent on 2002 or earlier taxes can be foreclosed upon by counties (or the state in some cases) in February/March 2005.

We know that in Wayne County a lot of neighborhood organizations heard from their neighbors as they struggled to figure out what was happening with tax foreclosures in 2004. Community development organizations and other local social service providers may be the only place a community member knows to turn to when faced with a tax foreclosure notice.

We encourage you to look to your County Treasurer's website for more information ([Wayne County](#), [Genesee County](#), [Oakland County](#), [Kent County](#), [Washtenaw County](#), [Ingham County](#)). In addition, if you have questions about the process and what homeowners should do when presented with a foreclosure notice, please do not hesitate to contact CLR for a referral.

Contact CLR with any questions or legal needs

Request Assistance

Community Legal Resources (CLR) provides free legal assistance to community-based organizations.

Contact us at 313-964-4130 or visit our [website](#) for more information.

email: klocker@michiganlegal.org
phone: 313-964-4130
web: <http://www.clronline.org>

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