



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND

PRESS RELEASE

July 20, 2015

Contact: Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt
N. David Bouley, Director Planning and Development
401-767-9205

Blight Reduction Update

WOONSOCKET, RI: Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt is pleased to announce that more properties have been slated for demolition as part of the Administration's program to reduce Woonsocket's urban blight.

A bid was recently accepted for the demolition of a large multicar garage located at 397 Grove Street, which is in danger of imminent collapse. This garage is located directly over the rear parking lot of a prominent Park Avenue business, and presents a safety hazard to the employees. The City will have a recorded lien on the property and at the time of any future sale, the City will recoup the cost of the demolition, including any associated expenses.

Another property slated for demolition is 57 Wilson Avenue, a fire damaged home that is beyond repair. This property was recently ordered to be demolished by the Building Department; however the owner did not have insurance on the structure. Therefore, in the interest of public safety, the City went out to bid for demolition and will also hold a recorded lien on this property in order to recoup any costs.

Finally, 79 Cato Street, an abandoned property in deplorable condition, was acquired by the City and demolished. The City now owns the land and will be able to recoup the expenses associated with the demolition from the proceeds of a sale.

Mayor Baldelli-Hunt added, "These are just a few examples of reducing blight in our City. My Administration is committed to improving our neighborhoods through the elimination of these dangerous eyesores, but we have a long way to go. There are over 225 abandoned properties in the City, and we are taking multiple approaches to tackle each and every one of them. Eliminating these unsightly structures is just another way of improving the overall look of the City and creating a better Woonsocket."

###END###