



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

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RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT PROGRAM *Assistance with code violation fines and fees to improve neglected homes*

(Stockton, CA) – A new City program will help improve some of Stockton’s most blighted homes. The Residential Neighborhood Reinvestment Program is available to assist when homes with at least \$15,000 in existing code violations are improved and all violations are fixed. When new owners bring the properties into compliance, the City will forgive the accrued fees and penalties.

Here are some of the highlights of the program:

- The property must be a single-family residence with at least \$15,000 in current outstanding code violation fees and penalties.
- Only owners who have not caused the code violations may apply for the program.
- The applicant must show that the code violation costs are preventing the successful improvement of the property and that improving the property will have a positive effect on the surrounding neighborhood.
- The applicant must also show the ability to complete the needed improvements and fix the violations within one year of the project’s approval.

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- Once an eligible property and applicant are approved, the City will negotiate an agreement with the property owner or buyer that will include a timeline for repairs.

Cities commonly impose fines on residential properties when homeowners do not comply with local codes. In most cases, the fines are minimal and the owner corrects the violation. In some instances, an owner may not fix the problem or pay the fines and penalties; these charges can quickly add up as debts against the property, creating a barrier to potential home buyers, who might otherwise buy and fix the property. These neglected properties can become blighted, vacant, and underused.

This program has been approved for a period of five-years. It is estimated that there are approximately 100 properties in various neighborhoods throughout the city with code enforcement liens of \$15,000 or more. The purpose of the program is to help place these properties back into the housing market and create more affordable housing opportunities.

For more information or an application, please call the City of Stockton Economic Development Department at (209) 937-8539.

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The City of Stockton Economic Development Department strives to develop jobs by attracting new businesses to Stockton, maintaining a healthy business environment for existing businesses, assisting small businesses start up, and providing housing for low-income residents.

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