



CHICAGO METROPOLITAN

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July 20, 2012

Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle  
& Cook County Commissioners  
118 N. Clark Street Room 537  
Chicago, IL 60602

Re: Support for Establishing a Cook County Land Bank Advisory Committee

Dear President Preckwinkle and Commissioners,

On behalf of Chicago Metropolitan Housing Development Corporation (CMHDC), I am writing to express our support for the establishment of a Cook County Land Bank Advisory Committee. This resolution will mark the first step towards the creation of a Cook County Land Bank that can incentivize economic development, encourage housing stabilization and spark job creation throughout the region.

A land bank designed Countywide that allows for affordable housing, sustainable homeownership and rental opportunities, while creating the opportunity for communities to have an active role in the planning and redevelopment of their communities is critical.

A Cook County Land Bank, designed to address vacant and abandoned buildings *regionally* will be the thread that connects similar County, State and Federal programs together. By leveraging the scale of the problem to the size of the market, a land bank can go directly to the core problems communities are facing; vacant and abandoned properties; depreciating home values and the need for comprehensive and sometimes sweeping planning for reuse.

I urge the Cook County Board of Commissioners to *support* the passage of this resolution. We look forward to working in collaboration with the committee as it moves forward

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rafael M. Leon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rafael M. Leon  
Executive Director