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Western reserve land conservancy thriving communities

812 Huron Rd E Suite 840 Cleveland, OH 44115 Cleveland Neighborhoods by the Numbers: 2018 UpdateCleveland Neighborhoods by the Numbers: 2018 UpdateOhio Land Bank Conference Presenters – 2017 Zone to become Senior Vice President, carrying on the legacy of Rokakis as leader of the Land Conservancy's Thriving Communities program CLEVELAND ... As a leading member of the Cleveland Tree Coalition, Western Reserve Land Conservancy continues to lead the effort to grow Cleveland's leafy... Western Reserve Land Conservancy is a proud member of the Cleveland Tree Coalition. Here is a statement prepared by the coalition: During ... A new report issued by Western Reserve Land Conservancy shows a significant reduction in the number of vacant and ailing structures in ... Cities need data on vacant buildings and building conditions to make informed decisions about community development. By preparing and carrying out inventories of real estate, Western ... From the preservation of historic homes to ecological restoration of vacant lots, this year's Ohio Land Bank Conference offered plenty of opportunities to ... On Saturday, May 12, volunteers, community partners, and family members honored the legacy of the late Senator George Voinovich by planting trees... As we beat the heat and bask in the shade provided by trees throughout the region, we are reminded of the many ... Frank Ford, senior policy adviser for Western Reserve Land Conservancy's Thriving Communities program, has published an article, Myths and Misconceptions about demolition in ... An alliance of companies and nonprofits came together on Saturday, September 9, to plant 30 robust trees at an elementary school in ... Zone to become Senior Vice President, carrying on the legacy of Rokakis as leader of the Land Conservancy's Thriving Communities program CLEVELAND... Communities at the crossroads: A survey by Five First-Ring Suburbs examines the housing market challenges and opportunities facing five of Cleveland's first-ring suburbs... A new report, Communities at the Crossroads: A Survey of Five First-Ring Suburbs, examines the housing market challenges and opportunities facing Euclid, ... This spring, Western Reserve Land Conservancy employee Kirby Broadnax will join 40 of the world's best urban professionals under the age ... Western Reserve Land Conservancy President and CEO have delivered a TED talk at TEDxClevelandStateUniversity on how communities reflect the laws of biology. He discusses ... Members of the media with questions about the Land Conservancy and our work can contact Amy Huntley, Manager of Community Outreach at ... A tool for planning, and operate county land banks in Ohio Thank you for your interest in the Land Bank Playbook. We have designed this comprehensive guide to be a resource for those who plan, establish or operate a Land Reutilization Corporation in The Playbook contains proven guidelines and best practices, as well as important forms and reference materials. The legislation that allows the Land Reutilization Corporation (LRC) in Ohio is relatively new, every county that establishes an LRC has unique needs, and new best practices come up regularly. The Playbook is intended as a valuable resource, but learning from others involved in LRC's in Ohio is invaluable as you prepare for the launch or continue to improve a county land bank. For more information on how urban areas are carrying out the activities that are in the Playbook or to get involved in Ohio's county and banking community, please contact us on rthomas@wrlandconservancy.org. Thanks to the generous support of the Fund for Our Economic Future, we are able to provide access to the Playbook online at no cost to you. March 3, 2015 (TCI) Western Reserve Land Conservancy's Urban Program« Back to Glossary Index Western Reserve Land Conservancy is a non-profit organization that provides the people of our region with essential natural assets through land conservation and restoration. We work with landowners, communities, government agencies, park systems and other nonprofits to permanently preserve nature reserves and work farms in northern and eastern Ohio. Our urban program, Thriving Communities, is working statewide to create healthier urban environments, particularly those devastated by the foreclosure crisis. Ohio's cities were ravaged by the foreclosure crisis. Statewide, the presence of as many as 100,000 vacant and abandoned homes drove neighborhood property values and became magnets for criminal activity. Our communities needed help and Western Reserve Land Conservancy was on the rise. In March 2011, the Land Conservancy launched The Thriving Communities Institute, a nationwide effort to revitalize our urban centers, naming nationally renowned expert Jim Rokakis as director. Today, our Thriving Communities program works with cities and organizations throughout Ohio to turn vacant, unsafe and unproductive properties into useful ones. In the process, communities find new opportunities to attract economic growth, add green space and support safe, beautiful neighborhoods. Our cities have flourished in the past. We believe they will thrive again in the future. While the initial focus of Thriving Communities was to establish and support county landbanks, this program now includes conducting property surveys, planting trees, securing funding for demolition and greening and doing cutting-edge research. County Banks Thriving Communities has become the go-to program in Ohio for counties wanting to form a country bank, which is technically called a county land reutilization corporation. Landbanks are an essential tool to stabilise our fragile cities. They give our our the much needed opportunity to quickly acquire an ailing property, keep it safe, clean its title and prepare for a better day. The aim is to secure vacant properties - which would otherwise attract crime, lower the values of neighbouring homes and make public services costs - so that they could be better used in the future. County land banks are powerful tools in the fight against misery. Demolition funding The need in Ohio is great. Our team of thriving communities has led efforts to secure demolition funds for communities through its strategic partnerships with federal, state and local officials and other community leaders. Land conservation projects In line with our traditional mission, the Landscape Communities project of Land Conservancy works with property owners to permanently preserve valuable natural areas in our urban environments. We work with cities, suburbs and park systems to create paths, greenways and parks that serve people in more densely populated areas. Real estate inventories Using our GIS and planning expertise, we work with cities and neighborhood groups to examine all packages in a particular community, giving leaders the information they need to make important planning decisions. Reforestation Our City We are working with our partners, including other nonprofits, municipal officials, community development companies and residents, to restore Cleveland's depleted tree canopy. This program includes extensive Tree Steward Training for residents and a grant program for groups that want to plant trees in their neighborhood. We believe this tree-planting and maintenance program may become a model for other Ohio cities. Research Studies done by our collaborators and contracted researchers have led to policy changes at the federal, state and local levels, including a decision by the U.S. Treasury Department to free up money from the Hardest Hit Funds for demolition. In addition, the Vacant and Abandoned Properties Action Council (VAPAC) - the only joint effort of its type in the country - is based at Thriving Communities Institute. Cleveland Neighborhoods by the Numbers: Help shield victims who still live in devastated neighborhoods Growing up in Cleveland's Archwood-Denison neighborhood, Jim Rokakis saw firsthand how neighbors helping neighbors can strengthen an entire community. Elected as the youngest member of Cleveland City Council at the age of 22, he embarked on a 19-year tenure that saw several successes in the of neighborhood woes, redevelop Downtown Cleveland, creating the Cleveland Housing Court and representing as chairman of the influential Finance Committee for his last seven years on the Council. In 1997, Jim took office as Cuyahoga County Treasurer, bringing his innovative skills and community passion to a struggling county In the decade that followed, Jim overhauled the entire office and greatly improved the county's existing tax collection system by establishing state-of-the-art billing and debt collection processes. Faced with Cuyahoga County's mortgage foreclosure crisis, he helped write and pass House Bill 294, which streamlines the foreclosure process for abandoned properties. In addition, Jim was the driving force behind a bill that allowed for the creation of the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation, also known as the Cuyahoga County Land Bank. He served as first chairman of the CCLRC and played a key role in moving the land bank from a concept to a vital force in Cuyahoga County that has changed the real estate image for ailing properties in just 18 months. Local and national organizations have recognized Jim for his efforts in strengthening neighborhoods and communities. In 2007, he received the NeighborWorks America Local Government Service Award, the Leadership in Social Justice Award from Greater Cleveland Community Shares and was named county leader of the year by American City and County Magazine. Jim earned his undergraduate degree from Oberlin College and his Juris Doctorate degree from Cleveland-Marshall School of Law. He lives in Rocky River. Neighborhoods Revitalizing Cities Thriving Communities Institute Urban Rokakis: Help shield victims who still live in devastated neighborhoodsRokakis will appear on '60 Minutes' segmentFirst phase of Cleveland citywide property survey complete