



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Baldwin County Set to Reduce More Blighted Properties

MILLEDGEVILLE, GA – Baldwin County has set out to reduce the number of blighted properties significantly again this year and is asking for the community’s assistance and initiative to do so.

In an effort to improve the community at large, the county government activated the Blight Reduction Program to reduce the number of blighted properties throughout Baldwin County. Since January 2018, over 100 dilapidated properties have been renovated or demolished. Baldwin County’s Code Enforcement Office is asking Baldwin County citizens to take note if they own a blighted property and take steps immediately to remedy it in order to prevent legal action and save valuable time and money in the future.

The presence of blighted properties has immense negative impacts for the county. Neighborhoods possessing these dilapidated homes are suffering because they are deemed unsightly and are becoming known as unsafe areas to live. Abandoned homes are magnets for illegal drug activity and illegal occupation of abandoned properties.

These unsafe, dilapidated, and abandoned homes have decreased surrounding property values, thereby affecting the health of the local housing market. These areas are less attractive to home buyers and fuel destruction of healthy neighborhoods and communities.

A blighted property is a home or structure that is unsafe and uninhabitable due to no one living in the home for over two years, fire or water damage or other structural issues. If citizens do not take the necessary steps to repair or demolish these properties, the county will take the property owner to court, resulting in expensive legal fees and court costs, with a final judgment of placing a lien on the property if the issue isn’t resolved. To prevent the county from taking legal action, residents with blighted properties are asked

to apply for a permit via the Baldwin County Code Enforcement Office in order to start demolition. The fees for these permits are \$10. The Code Enforcement Office will also provide a list of reliable and affordable demolition companies to assist in the demolition of blighted properties.

For more information or assistance on how to get started to renovate or demolish your blighted property, please contact Baldwin County Code Enforcement Officer Chad Phillips at (478) 456-0370.

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