

*Feel free to use examples from your own neighborhood*

[DATE]

The Honorable Tony F. Mack, Mayor  
City of Trenton  
319 East State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08608

Dear Mayor Mack,

As a resident of the city of Trenton, I am concerned about the prevalence of abandoned properties in our city. I am calling on you to appoint a public officer to implement Trenton's Abandoned Properties Ordinance, allowing the city and our neighborhoods to begin to gain control over the epidemic of property abandonment in this city.

Abandoned properties are detrimental to the city of Trenton and its residents. They are eyesores, decrease surrounding property values, and often attract vandalism and other criminal activities. They also cost the city money. Owners who abandon their properties bring down the value of surrounding properties and create dangerous conditions.

Trenton has passed an Abandoned Properties Ordinance, but it has not yet been fully implemented. This is a law that, when properly enforced, has a track record of success in other New Jersey cities. To take advantage of this opportunity, you, as Mayor, need to appoint a public officer to create and track an official list of abandoned properties. Cities such as Newark have taken this approach, and found that the simple process of listing these buildings encourages as many as a quarter of owners to repair and put them back into productive use on their own, without further municipal action.

Implementing this ordinance by appointing a public officer would make use of one tool the city needs. The other action you can take is to work with the City Council to improve Trenton's Vacant Property Registration Ordinance. Amending and enforcing this ordinance would allow the city to collect annual registration fees from the owners of vacant properties, encouraging the owners to return their properties to productive use, while helping the City to offset the costs associated with problem properties.

The residents of Trenton are eager to work with our city's leadership to combat property abandonment and vacancy in Trenton. We urge you to implement our Abandoned Properties Ordinance by appointing a public officer. This simple act is the first step in turning Trenton's abandoned properties into opportunities for community revitalization and municipal revenue generation.

Together, we can create a community renaissance. Thank you for helping us revitalize Trenton!

[SIGNATURE]  
ADDRESS  
PHONE NUMBER  
EMAIL