

Making the Most of Neighborhood Stabilization Resources

Using NSP to Support Effective Property Preservation

As an advocate for strategic demolition, the importance of using federal funds for rehabilitation is not lost on me. I believe that in order to stabilize a community we must take a holistic approach that equally utilizes demolition, preservation and rehab. We have found that when people discuss these concepts they believe them to be antithetical to one another. While I agree that the issues of property preservation, rehabilitation and demolition are distinctly different, I believe that these efforts cannot be independently effective.

Demolishing a few (or even a lot) of homes without rehabbing the existing homes is not how to stabilize a community.

If federal dollars are to be used toward preserving and rehabilitating vacant homes then I would suggest that the available funds be used to protect properties that can rehabbed and be put back into the community.

We know all too well how quickly a home boarded with plywood can go from being a viable candidate for rehabilitation to a spot at the top of a demolition list after it is gutted by thieves or destroyed by squatters.

It is illogical to waste precious dollars on community revitalization if there is no way to protect the vacated properties from becoming vandalized.

SecureView (see below full disclosure) is an alternative board-up system that is designed to look like traditional windows to make a property appear occupied. More importantly, it is virtually unbreakable to guard against intruders.

If the intent of Neighborhood Stabilization dollars is to stabilize communities, these same funds should support effective preservation of vacant properties.

In the spirit of true transparency I will disclose that I am the Chairman and co-founder of SecureView. I bought the company for the same reason I am urging its use right now, quite simply, it is the right thing to do. Just like it is the right thing to use federal dollars to support both demolition and preservation.

Robert Klein

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