

# Neighborhood Revitalization Kickoff Discussion

## 9.25.17



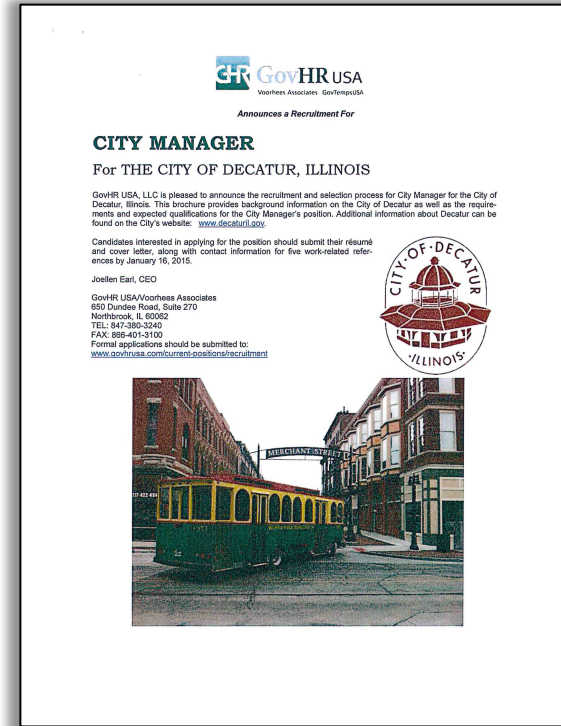


# City of Decatur City Manager Recruitment Brochure – January 2015

## ***CHALLENGES FOR THE CITY MANAGER***

“Decatur is in the process of recovering from the recession like many other communities. One area that will continue to need attention and resources is the removal of abandoned property

The physical health of Decatur’s residents is also a priority and challenge. Obesity is a chronic issue for many of the residents and is a priority. For many stakeholders in the community”



“Decatur is sometimes not regarded as a highly desirable location to live, work, play and raise a family despite all of the investment and resources that have been invested in the community. Changing the image of Decatur is a top priority for the City’s elected officials.”

# Council Priority Status – FINANCIAL CHALLENGES BEING ADDRESSED

## **Decatur city staff projects no new taxes or cuts for 2017**

*- NowDecatur - November 8, 2016*

## **Decatur eyeing staff reorganization plan**

- The Decatur City Council will be asked today to consider approving a staff reorganization that could save nearly \$300,000.

*- Herald & Review, February 6, 2016*

## **Decatur City Council unanimously approves proposed 2017 budget**

- The approved budget will provide for continued capital projects and necessary equipment purchases and is built upon what is expected to be a property tax rate that remains about the same as last year.

*- WAND TV, November 21, 2016*

## **Road repairs seen among city budget benefits**

*- Herald & Review – November 12, 2016*



# Council Priority Status: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS Completed or Underway



\$5.5 Million in local  
roadwork



\$5+ Million in Water Main  
Replacement



\$70 Million in Local Sewer  
Work



# 2017 Direct Neighborhood Expenditures (Outside of this Program)

\$3,440,629



# ONGOING NEIGHBORHOOD WORK – DECATUR PARK DISTRICT



Mueller Park – New Basketball Court

The Decatur Park District: Roughly \$1.9 million spent for improvements to 17 parks over the past 5 years.



Mueller Park - New Playground Equipment



# ONGOING NEIGHBORHOOD WORK – NEIGHBORHOOD STREET REPAIR (LOCAL MFT)



Church St.  
Rehabilitation



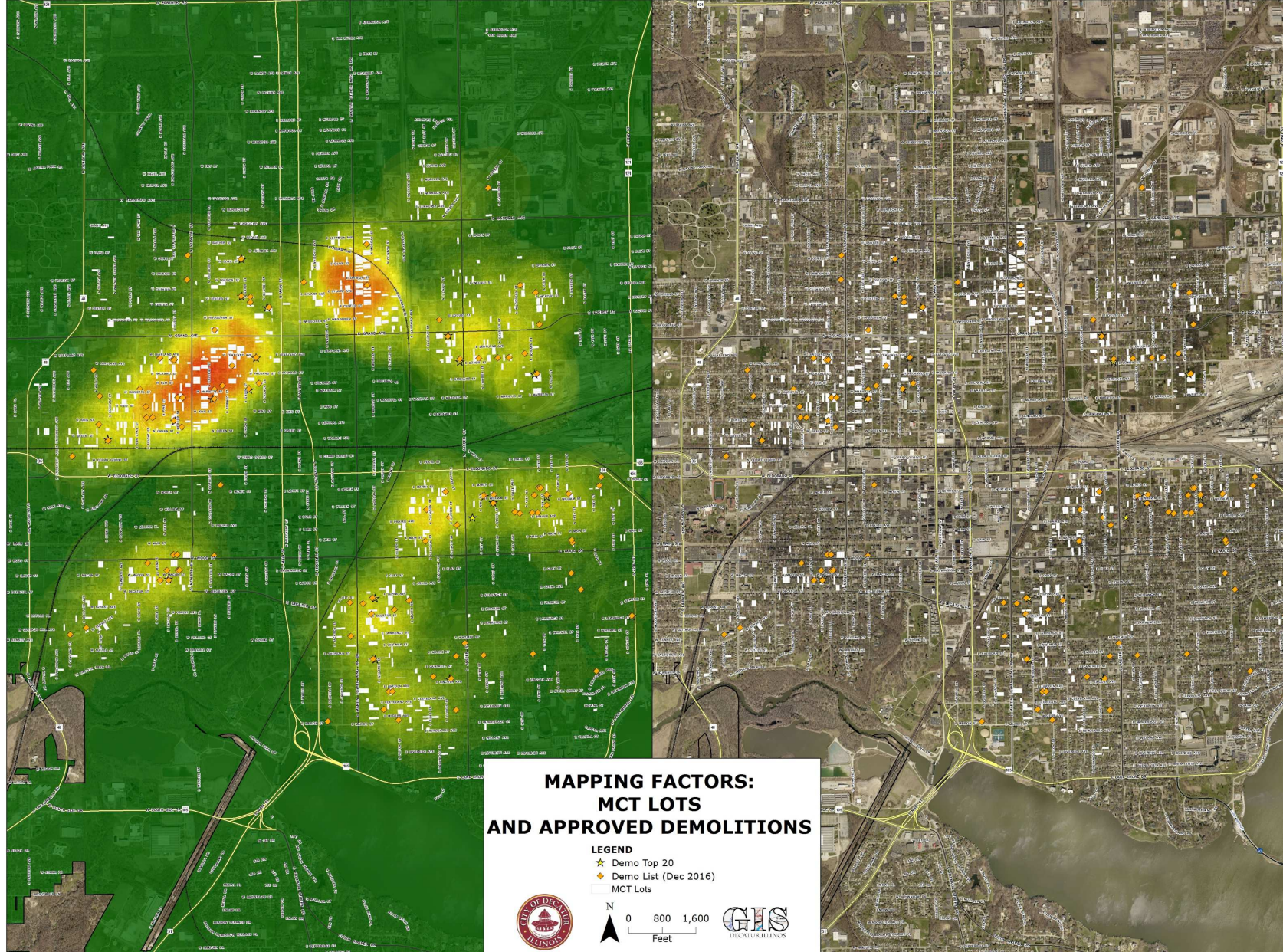
E. Main St. and Stone –  
New Ramps/curbing



Glencoe Ave.



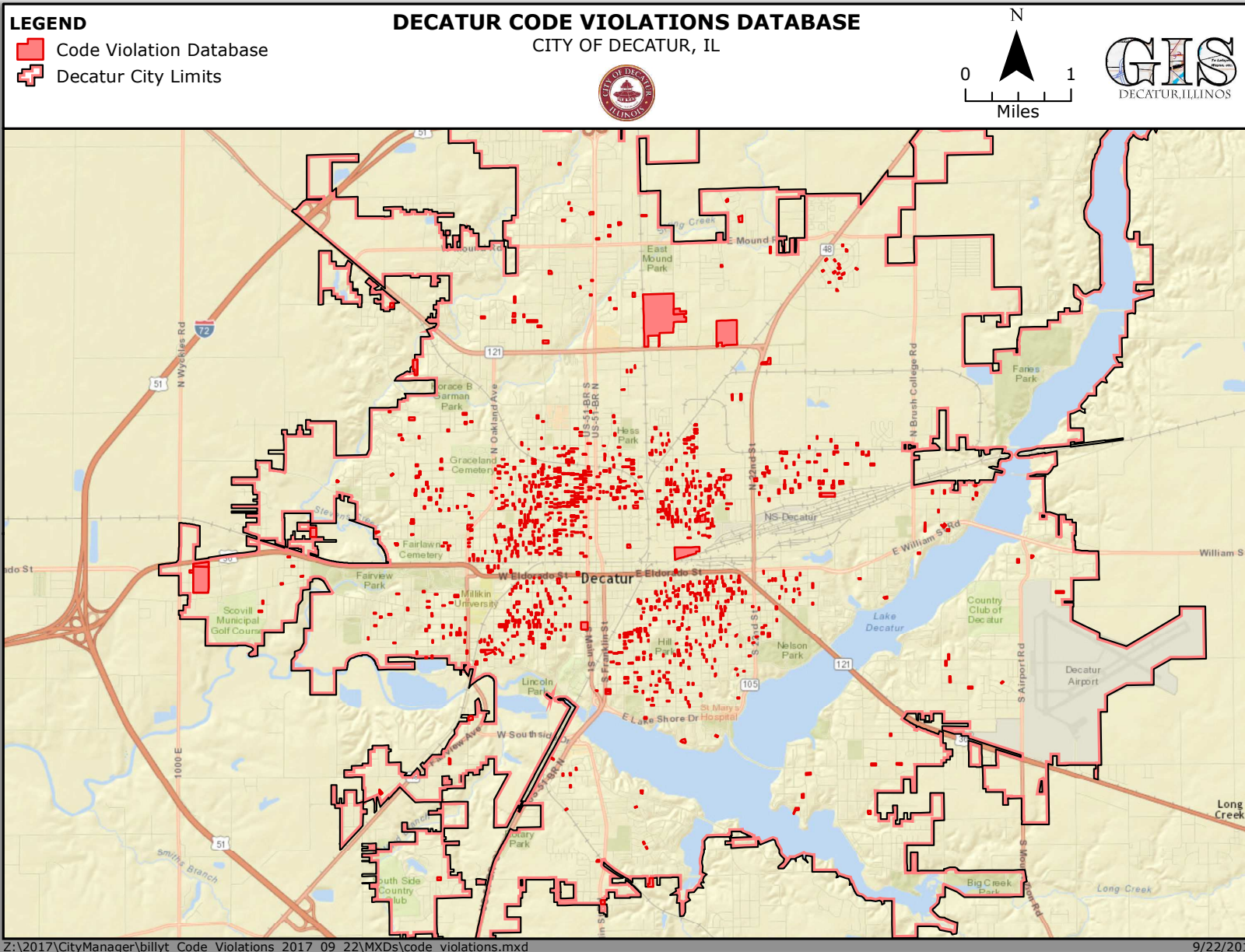
# SIGNIFICANT WORK TO BE DONE



- "Heat Map" to the left shows concentrations of Macon County Trustee lots, properties set for demolition and the "worst of the worst" of demo properties.
- The Macon County Trustee holds and disposes of properties where owners are delinquent on taxes for multiple years.
- The Macon County trustee currently holds 644 properties, most of which are in Decatur.



# SIGNIFICANT WORK TO BE DONE



There are currently 1,489 active cases for property-related code violations within the City of Decatur. Violations can range from significant property repairs to citations for weeds, tall grass and garbage on the premises.



# SIGNIFICANT WORK TO BE DONE



CITY DEMO PROGRAM TO RE-START IN  
FALL 2017

GRAND AVE CLEANUP TO BE SET FOR  
WINTER 2017-2018





# SIGNIFICANT WORK TO BE DONE: Corridors



# SIGNIFICANT WORK TO BE DONE: Job Availability and Readiness

- Today there are HUNDREDS OF LOCAL JOBS listed on [INDEED.COM](https://www.indeed.com) AND [LIMITLESSDECATUR.com](https://www.limitlessdecatur.com) WAITING TO BE FILLED.
- Numerous local employers indicate that they are having significant difficulty filling positions and retaining employees.



# Creation of Community Action Committees:

Community connections likely working in areas of concern and focus as an organized group or a citizen, including but not limited to...

- Ministers / Ministerial Associations/Churches
- Students (high school and up)
- Governmental Entities (D61, Townships, County, Park District, etc.)
- Residents
- Workforce groups
- Fundraising/Marketing (media expectations)
- Trades/Unions
- Diverse Community Leadership Currently Leading Efforts
- Community Wellness Organizations
- Landlord/Neighborhood Associations, Groups and Individuals
- And many others...

Community  
Action  
Committees  
Example:  
Multiple Topic  
Areas **Selected**  
**by Council and**  
**Public** All  
Important to  
Overall Plan  
Success





# Facilitation of Focus Groups

Allows working groups / task forces to stay on point in preparing for a scheduled session, during the session and a formal “to-do” at the end of the session preparing for the next session



# Plan Example 1: City of Dallas, TX



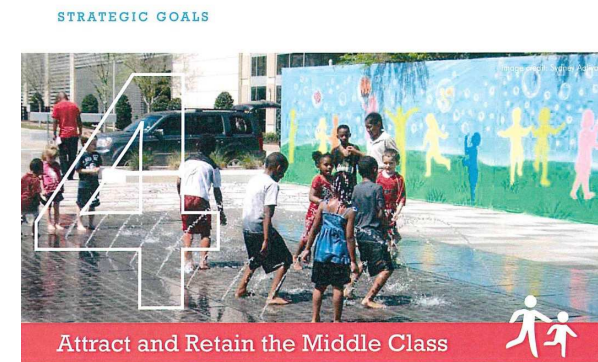
Create a Collective Impact Framework



Alleviate Poverty



Fight Blight



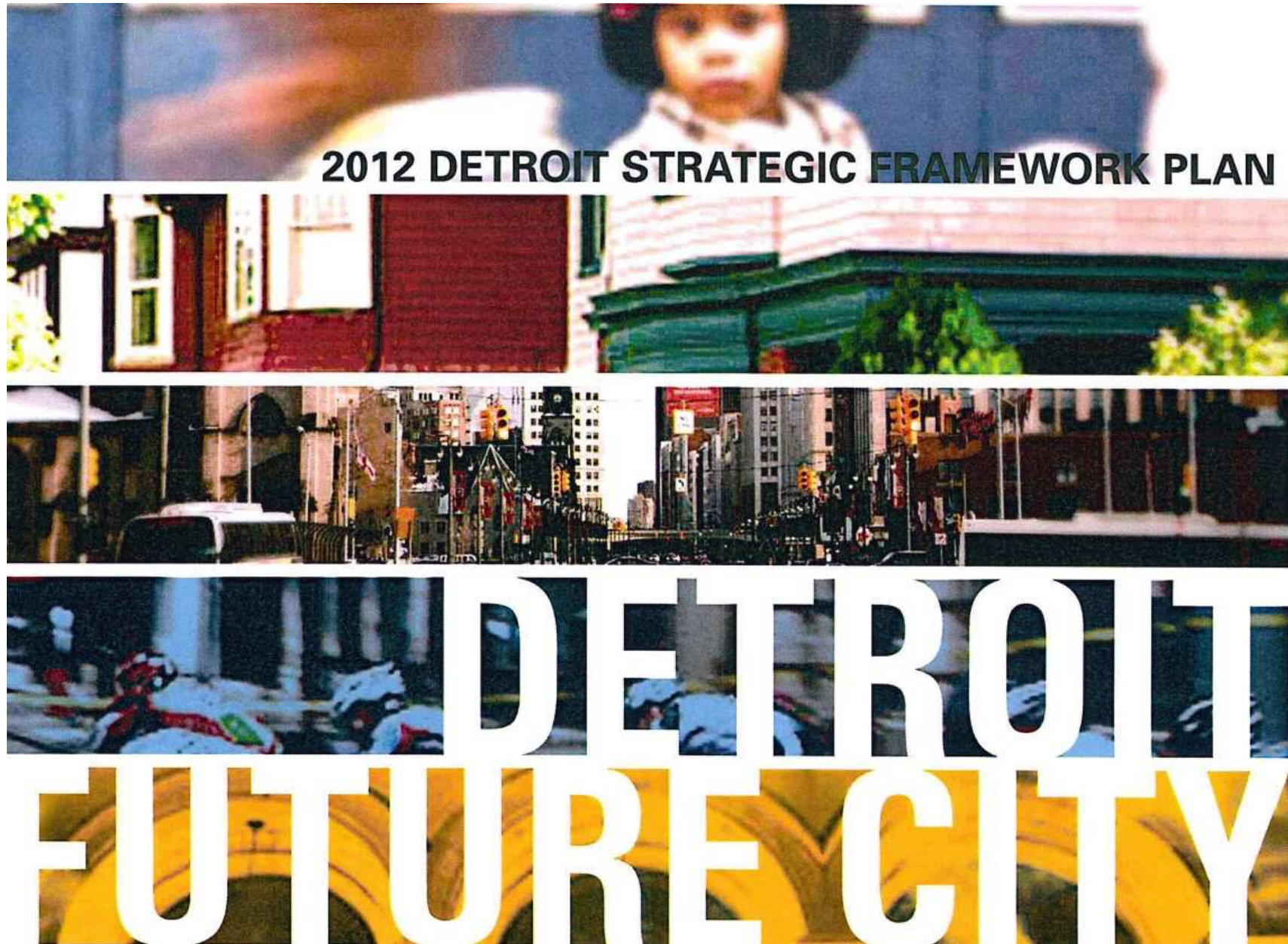
Attract/Retain the Middle Class



Expand Homeownership



# Plan Example 2: City of Detroit





# Program Example: City of Rockford IL



## THE CITY OF ROCKFORD 2017 HOMEBUYER'S PROPERTY TAX REFUND PROGRAM

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

1

**BUY A  
DISTRESSED  
HOUSE**  
or build a  
brand new  
house



2

**PAY YOUR  
PROPERTY  
TAXES**  
as normal



3

**THE CITY  
PAYS YOU  
BACK**  
in one  
lump sum,  
every year for  
three years





# Next Steps?

- Council provides CM with direction
- Formal public call to action with request to participate
- Focus Groups organized
- Meetings with breakout of Focus Groups (Scheduled throughout Fall/Winter)
- Naming Process for Community Redevelopment/Revitalization Plan

## Next Steps?

- Activate a link on the website to collect community input on identified strategic priorities. Facebook Live and Twitter sessions, Cable Access call-in, Advertising
- Personal outreach to gather information
- Media Releases at significant milestones
- Formalized Plan based upon input takes shape



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# QUESTIONS?

