

## Hartford's New Blight Ordinance & Director

Hartford has a new Blight ordinance that is intended to supersede the Livable and Sustainable Neighborhoods Initiative (LSNI), and a new Director in the person of Laura Settemeyer Director of Blight Remediation.

As a recent memorandum from the Mayor said, it will... "Strengthens the City's existing process for enforcing anti-blight violations and liens:

- To encourage more property owners to bring their properties into compliance;
- To allow the City to collect more revenue from fines and liens to offset the cost of blight on the Hartford community; and

To enable the City to abate the nuisance or force a transfer of ownership (through lien foreclosure or voluntary sale) when property owners do not comply.

- ... and will be known as the City's 'Anti-Blight and Property Maintenance Program.' The new program will follow the 'Fix It Up, Pay It Up, or Give It Up' model of strategic code enforcement used in other cities across the country to fight blight."

Asylum Hill is relatively fortunate in that there are only 8 homes on the current list compared to nearby neighborhoods with more than 20. We also have come a long way from the 1990's when there were 49 boarded up homes in Asylum Hill.

Still, the goal is to have none and we are clearly moving in that direction especially with partners like Northside Institutions Neighborhood

Alliance (NINA) and the Hartford Preservation Alliance (HPA)

The property shown here, 187 Sigourney St is on the annual HPA list of endangered Historic buildings. The others are 28 Atwood, 28 Gillett, 205 Laurel, 282 Laurel, 373 Laurel, 43 Niles, and 15 Townley. They can all be seen at:

<https://goo.gl/photos/nukidjvrrJe9WBQL7>

