



Huntington Township Housing Coalition

April 20, 2015

TO: Honorable Frank Petrone, Supervisor, and Members of the Huntington Town Board

I am writing on behalf of the Huntington Township Housing Coalition to support the resolution introduced by Councilwoman Tracy Edwards, and co-sponsored by Councilwoman Susan Berland, to create a volunteer consortium of industry professionals to examine and provide recommendations to the Town Board to advance rehabilitation of deteriorated abandoned homes in the Town of Huntington.

This resolution will give legal standing and legitimacy to the consortium which will advance its work with banks and other lending institutions, nonprofits, government agencies and funders – all of whom might be partners in this effort to recapture and rehabilitate abandoned and foreclosed homes.

On March 24th, four members of our Steering Committee met, at her invitation, with Councilwoman Edwards to brainstorm ideas for transforming into affordable housing the so-called abandoned “zombie” houses in foreclosure being featured that week in a Newsday series. This very productive meeting generated excellent ideas, as well as immediate outreach to the Long Island Housing Partnership and the Community Development Corporation of Long Island.

Our group was scheduled to reconvene in April to follow up on these ideas. We were therefore quite pleased and encouraged to see that Councilwoman Edwards moved quickly to create a consortium that will address this problem. By asking Councilwoman Berland to cosponsor the resolution, Councilwoman Edwards further strengthened it by linking the work of this consortium to the already-existing blighted homes registry created in an earlier resolution by Councilwoman Berland.

Please know that the Huntington Township Housing Coalition is honored to be part of the proposed consortium and looks forward to working toward a solution of this serious problem in a way that adds to the stock of affordable housing in Huntington.

Yours truly for the Coalition,

Richard Koubek, President
Cc: Hon. Jo Ann Raia, Town Clerk