



Board: City Commission

Agenda Date: July 8, 2026

Presenter: Mayor Thompson

Staff Report

Agenda Item Title:

Discussion of Unoccupied Vacant Properties

Background:

The City continues to experience properties that are vacant, underutilized, or otherwise not contributing to the community's long-term economic and neighborhood vitality. These properties can create challenges related to property maintenance, public safety, redevelopment opportunities, tax base growth, and overall community appearance. At the same time, many communities have found that encouraging the productive reuse of existing buildings is an important component of neighborhood stabilization and economic development.

The purpose of this discussion is to provide the City Commission with an opportunity to explore potential approaches for addressing these properties. Discussion topics may include defining vacant, underutilized, or unoccupied properties; evaluating the feasibility of a vacant building registration and inspection program; reviewing existing code enforcement and nuisance abatement tools; considering redevelopment or rehabilitation incentives; and identifying other policies or programs that support reinvestment while balancing private property rights with the community's interest in maintaining safe, attractive, and economically productive neighborhoods. No formal action is requested at this time. The discussion is intended to establish priorities and provide direction for future research and policy development.

Fiscal Effect:

N/A

Supporting Documentation:

Excerpt from Master Plan (Pages 10,23,37-38)

Example of Registration Program from City of Detroit

Neighborhood Improvement Authority (NIA) Info Sheet

Recommendation:

Discuss the issue of underutilized, unoccupied, and vacant properties within the City and provide staff with policy direction regarding potential programs, ordinances, or redevelopment tools that warrant further evaluation.