



ALBANY COUNTY
LAND BANK CORPORATION

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Executive Director

Kathleen Bronson

Albany County Land Bank Corporation Takes Three Major Steps Forward

Organization Receives \$500,000 from Albany County, Hires Executive
Director and Appoints Community Advisory Committee

September 26, 2014

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For Immediate Release

Albany, NY – Albany County and Albany County Land Bank Board held a press conference today to announce the appointment of the organization's first Executive Director, Kathleen Bronson, and the appointment of the organization's 24-member Community Advisory Committee. These appointments come just days after Albany County approved \$500,000 to Albany County Land Bank.

Albany County committed \$1,000,000 over two years for the Land Bank's startup and operating costs. The \$500,000 check presented today covers the first year commitment.

The Albany County Land Bank Corporation is a newly-formed entity charged with streamlining and facilitating the processes by which vacant, abandoned, and underutilized properties can be returned to productive use.

"Albany County is pleased to see the Albany County Land Bank Corporation moving forward with an Executive Director on board. We know the Land Bank is committed to fighting blight in the County and this is a key step in moving that effort forward," said Albany County Executive Daniel P. McCoy.

"The Albany County Land Bank Corporation has moved forward by leaps and bounds in the last several months," said Shawn Morse, Chairman of the Albany County Legislature. "With the selection of Kathleen Bronson as the Executive Director and the presentation of \$500,000 from the County for startup and operating costs this year, with the promise of another \$500,000 next year, the Land Bank is building momentum."

"I would like to thank Attorney General Eric Schneiderman for this great



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opportunity as well as the committed members of the Legislature, County Executive Dan McCoy, the Land Bank Board and the Community Advisory Committee.” Majority Leader Frank Commisso said, “Together, we will work neighborhood by neighborhood in beautifying our unique County while creating affordable housing opportunities for the people that live here.”

Mayor Kathy Sheehan said, “Kathleen’s experience working on Albany’s Blight to Betterment program and involvement in addressing vacant property issues will be incredibly valuable in her new role as the Land Bank Executive Director. I look forward to working with Kathleen, the new Community Advisory Committee members, and other stakeholders to achieve positive results from this important initiative.”

“The strong leadership that Kathleen Bronson will bring to our Albany County Land Bank Corporation is the next step to moving the land bank forward,” said Mike Jacobson, Chair of the Albany County Land Bank Board. “We look forward to the commitment and knowledge the Community Advisory Committee will bring to the Land Bank.”

Kathleen Bronson comes to the Albany County Land Bank from the City of Albany’s Department of Development and Planning, where she was the Principal Planner and neighborhood liaison. She received an award of excellence for implementation of the Arbor Hill Neighborhood Plan, a plan addressing one of the Land Bank’s targeted communities. Kathleen Bronson has a Masters of Arts in Urban Planning with a concentration in Economic Development from the University of Illinois at Chicago and an undergraduate degree in Public Communication from American University. She lives in the City of Albany with her husband, James, and their two daughters, Clare and Marian.

The Albany County Community Advisory Committee’s purpose is to advise the land bank staff and board on land bank activities as well as keep residents apprised of land bank activities. The Committee will keep the board informed about development conditions and opportunities related to vacant or delinquent properties in the Land Bank’s targeted communities.

The newly-appointed Committee members are:

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| Bakary Jannah | Joseph McGovern, Esq. |
| Brendan M. Noonan | Lisa Feaster |
| Caroline Verner | Margaret S. Diggs |
| Celeste R. Knight | Marjorie A. Geiger |
| Daniel M. Harp Jr. | Mark A. Robinson |
| Daniel R. Schlesinger, ESQ. | Miriam Axel-Lute |
| David Traynham | Paul Stewart |
| Dr. Bob Paeglow | Regina Dew |
| Frank Munoz | Richard Pearson-Strain |
| Gene Bunnell, M.C.P., M.P.H., Ph.D. | Susan C. Del Monte |
| Jalisa D. Williams, MBA | Therese Daly |
| John O’ Grady | Thomas McPheeters |





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“I am honored the Board chose me to lead the Albany County Land Bank as its first Executive Director. The organization has exceptional Board and Community Advisory Committee members,” said Kathleen Bronson. “I look forward to working with representatives from the County and its municipalities. Together we will return vacant properties to active and productive use.”

About the Albany County Land Bank Corporation

The Albany County Land Bank Corporation was approved by New York State Urban Development Corporation d/b/a Empire State Development, pursuant to Article 16 of the New York State Not-for-Profit Corporation Law in May 2014. The Albany County Land Bank Corporation is a by-product of years of grassroots advocacy, culminating in the collaboration of diverse groups around a shared goal of eliminating blight and restoring neighborhoods. The Land Bank will create the framework for a holistic approach in re-purposing vacant and abandoned properties by taking a comprehensive view of community needs and assets.

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