



ALBANY COUNTY  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Friday, December 11, 2015**

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## **Albany County Land Bank and Habitat for Humanity Capital District Announces New Homeownership Projects**

**Friday, December 11, 2015**

**10 am**

**100 Lark Street, Albany, NY**

**Albany, NY-** The Albany County Land Bank and Habitat for Humanity Capital District will make an official presentation to announce the first five full rehabilitation projects for homeownership. Join us for a press conference to kick off the partnership in front of one of the properties located at 100 Lark Street.

The first full rehabs, in the vicinity of Clinton Avenue and Lark Street, have been identified by the Land Bank as affordable homeownership opportunities. The properties are 100 and 102 Lark Street and 309, 311 and 315 Clinton Avenue. Funding for the project will come from the NYS Attorney General's Office and the City of Albany. This project will create a concentration of homeownership in a small focus area and will complement surrounding development with other Land Bank properties and Habitat projects.

Habitat builds affordable homes for lower-income families who would otherwise not have the opportunity of homeownership. "Habitat is proud to partner with the Albany County Land Bank to work towards our shared vision of eliminating blight in Albany County," said Habitat's Executive Director Christine Schudde. "With the combined expertise and resources of the Land Bank and Habitat, we can preserve Albany's rich architectural history while also creating opportunities for affordable homeownership. It's a natural partnership and a win-win for the neighborhoods and residents of Albany."

"Habitat for Humanity and the Land Bank have made a commitment to assist with neighborhood revitalization," said Charles Touhey, Chair of the Albany County Land Bank. "And this project continues the momentum of the Land Bank and the success of Habitat homes."



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“This is another great example of progress from the Albany County Land Bank,” said Albany County Executive Daniel P. McCoy. “This project will rebuild neighborhoods, eliminate blight, create homeownership, and put properties back on the tax rolls.”

Habitat will begin the rehabs of 100 and 102 Lark Street and 309 Clinton Avenue in early 2016. The City of Albany will be stabilizing the two Clinton Ave properties before transferring them to the Land Bank. “With the redevelopment of five vacant buildings on Clinton Avenue and Lark Street, the Land Bank continues to focus on the neighborhoods with the highest concentration of vacant and abandoned properties,” said City of Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan. “This project is just another example of the Land Bank and Habitat working with the residents to improve neighborhoods and increase homeownership.”

**Speakers at this event will include The Albany County Land Bank’s Executive Director Katie Bronson and Board Chair Charles Touhey, Habitat for Humanity Capital District’s Executive Director Christine Schudde, City of Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan, Albany County Executive Daniel P. McCoy, Majority Leader Frank Comisso, NYS Assembly Member 108<sup>th</sup> District John T. McDonald III, and Ron Bailey, Common Council member for Ward 3. The press conference will begin promptly at 10:00am and interview opportunities will follow immediately after the program.**

By the Numbers: By December 2015, **the Albany County Land Bank** acquired its first 123 tax foreclosed parcels from Albany County, approved the sales of 12 properties, closed on seven properties, demolished seven failing and unsafe properties, started work on five full rehabs, and is working/completed stabilizing an additional 17 properties. The Land Bank continues to improve properties through funding from the Office of the NYS Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, from Albany County and the City of Albany. For more information, please visit [www.albanycountylandbank.org](http://www.albanycountylandbank.org).

Through homeownership, **Habitat for Humanity Capital District** helps to develop and transform communities by building affordable and sustainable homes in partnership with lower-income families. Habitat for Humanity uses volunteer labor and donations of money and materials to provide affordable homeownership to those people who would not otherwise have that opportunity. Established in 1988, HfHCD is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International serving Albany, Rensselaer and southern Saratoga Counties, NY. To date, HfHCD has built more than 100 homes. For more information, please visit [www.HabitatCD.org](http://www.HabitatCD.org).

Great photo opportunity.

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