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**MAYOR REDD PLACES 59 PROPERTIES IN THE CRAMER HILL
NEIGHBORHOOD ON CITY'S ABANDONED PROPERTIES LIST**

Additional Properties To Be Processed By The End Of The Month

CAMDEN – Just one month after announcing new transparent processes and procedures for the acquisition of vacant and abandoned properties for development or redevelopment, Mayor Dana L. Redd today announced that her Administration has placed 59 properties located in the Cramer Hill neighborhood on the City's Abandoned Property List. The mayor also announced that additional properties, identified by residents in the Cramer Hill neighborhood will be processed by the end of the month.

The Mayor was joined by Senator Donald Norcross, Assemblyman Angel Fuentes, Father William Jud Weiksnar from Camden Churches Organized for People (CCOP), Manuel Delgado from the Cramer Hill Community Development Corporation, representatives from Camden United and Camden Community Development Association, members of the Mayor's Business Growth and Development Team (BGDT), and Camden residents.

"As a life-long Camden resident, I feel the same way our residents do about vacant and abandoned properties – I don't like them," Mayor Redd said. "Last month, I promised to address this issue head on and today we are keeping our word. In just four weeks, my Administration has taken responsible measures to process a total of 91 properties and place 59 of them on the City's Abandoned Properties List."

"After meeting with community groups and hearing their concerns, we applaud the mayor's office in utilizing this law – the Abandoned Property Act – to assist present city homeowners in their efforts to take back their community," said Senator Norcross.

"I look forward to the day when I can leave my house to go to work and not see abandoned buildings lining the streets," Assemblyman Fuentes said. "By updating this list, we are taking a step in making that a reality."

The announcement was made at 2833 Concord Avenue, a property in the Cramer Hill neighborhood that was added to the abandoned property list. This property is located adjacent to the home of Mr. Antonio Jimenez. "This property has been abandoned for 20 years, and alone I never found a way to buy it or get rid of it," Jimenez said. "Not until the community members of CCOP came together to work alongside the Mayor's office did we find that affordable pathways for rehabilitation do exist."

(more)

“Abandoned properties, like 2833 Concord Avenue, are a financial burden to the citizens and City of Camden and lessen public safety and health,” Delgado said. “We thank Mayor Redd for working with our neighborhood groups to develop a plan to attack abandonment and blight through the Abandoned Properties Act.”

Last month, Mayor Redd addressed many of our City’s Community Based Organizations, Community Development Corporations, faith-based organizations and other partners to discuss new transparent processes and procedures on how the City can promote grassroots development and redevelopment in our communities. As part of the presentation, the Mayor and her Business Growth and Development Team established an Abandoned Property Toolkit which outlines the resources available to addressing abandoned properties in the City of Camden. The measures in the toolkit include:

- Tax foreclosure
- Accelerated tax foreclosure
- Tax sales
- Special tax sale
- Vacant property receivership
- Spot blight eminent domain
- Public purpose eminent domain
- Redevelopment plan
- RFP Targeted Neighborhood Initiative

Residents, business owners, and community organizations seeking to include properties in the list, can submit abandoned property reporting forms to the City. Once appropriate actions are taken, properties that are deemed abandoned are processed, sent for publication. Owners are given 30 days to appeal. Once appeals are exhausted, denied, or uncontested, the property is officially on the list.

Once on the list, interested parties can apply to the BGDT for the rehabilitation of the property. Applications must comply and be consistent with the following policy documents approved by the Planning Board and City Council:

- Master Plan
- Redevelopment Plan
- Neighborhood Plan
- Zoning Plan
- Capital Improvement Budget and Plan

“The properties added to the abandoned properties list marks a critical step towards improving our neighborhoods and assisting in the implementation of the Cramer Hill Redevelopment Plan,” Mayor Redd said. “We want our neighborhoods back and we want them now!”

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