## CINCINNATI BUŞINESS COURIER

By Elizabeth Kyle - Data Reporter, Dayton Business Journal Sep 20, 2019, 6:00am EDT

## City of Springfield Revitalizes Housing Stock With New Initiatives



**I**ntroducing new housing and revitalizing existing neighborhoods are top priorities for the Springfield community. To address these needs, city officials and local executives have conducted housing studies and are moving forward with new initiatives.

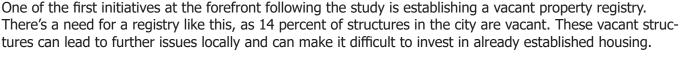




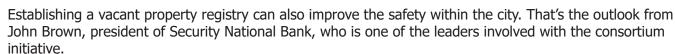
Last month, Springfield's comprehensive housing study titled "Housing in the Champion City: Comprehensive Housing Analysis" debuted, taking a closer look at the city's housing landscape. Recommendations were offered through this study, along with key strengths and strategies between city officials, county leaders and community stakeholders. The study was led by Greater Ohio Policy Center.

The city treated this study as a way to establish a baseline for Springfield's current housing status. Most recently, the city has seen a boost in housing demand because of the growing workforce locally.

"Overall, this study leads us on a path of change," City Manager Bryan Heck said. "It'll help guide us in making the decisions necessary to change the trajectory in our neighborhoods."



This initiative has been implementing in cities across Ohio, including Beavercreek, according to the consortium's members.



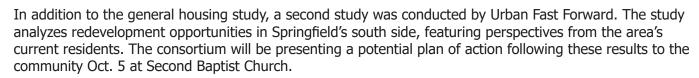
The consortium leading these discussions are comprised of professionals active in the city and county sector, along with executives involved with local foundations, banks, realtors, private industries and nonprofits.



Brown got involved at the start of the initiative about a year and a half ago, following the bank's desire to lend a hand in revitalization efforts. Plus, one of the bank's goals is to assist homeowners with loans and improve delinquent taxes, among other financial focuses. Narrowing in on the vacant property registry, Brown describes the initiative as a "no brainer," and hopes it gets passed by city council.

Echoing Brown's views, Springfield City Commissioner David Estrop noted city taxpayers spend about \$1 million dealing with the management of abandoned buildings. This database initiative will help owners vacant buildings become more responsible and deal with their properties.

The consortium met Sept. 10 to discuss the report's findings and the status of proposing the database in front of city council. The database will likely be voted on by October.



Among these steps to address the studies' findings, current housing developments are underway in the city to help meet demands. Charles V. Simms Development Corporation has broken ground on its new townhouse development in downtown Springfield, in addition to the 230 single-family home Bridgewater subdivision development located off of Tuttle Road.

The consortium is eager to move forward with its conclusions.

"This is home for me, so you want to see it be successful," Brown said. "We're at a point of accomplishment, now we have to act on them."





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