



Diane Nichols Tradd
Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

Craig Thomas
Deputy Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

FROM: Diane N. Tradd, Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

DATE: March 24, 2020

SUBJECT: COUNCIL MOTION OF 2/25/20 BY COUNCILOR ELLIOTT
REQUEST CITY MANAGER HAVE DPD PROVIDE UPDATED PLANS REGARDING
VACANT/DILAPIDATED PROPERTIES IN THE ACRE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

On November 12, 2019, the City Council voted to extend the Acre Urban Renewal Plan for 10 years to January 27, 2030. This plan has helped to spur redevelopment in the Acre neighborhood, turning a once blighted area into a reinvigorated and dynamic area for the City. A majority of proposed actions in the Acre Plan set forth in its initial vision in 1999 are complete. Major objectives of the Acre Urban Revitalization and Development Plan included new housing, commercial development, and public improvements. To date, more than 350 units of housing have been created, major commercial redevelopment including a new Market Basket is complete, and the City's current Senior Center opened and operates as a City-wide asset.

Despite that significant progress, there are still a few key properties and proposed actions to be undertaken in the next ten years of the plan. The Department of Planning and Development (DPD) anticipates that many of the special urban renewal tools, which are available to the City through the plan's creation and extension, will be necessary to continue to complete new projects. DPD staff reviewed many of the incomplete projects with the Economic Subcommittee on 3/3/2020. An important next step will be a neighborhood walk to review existing conditions and set objectives and expectations for the next decade of the Acre Plan. DPD staff are targeting early summer for this neighborhood walk.

DNT/ns

cc: Joseph Giniewicz, Urban Renewal Project Manager