



As you hear and read about daily, there has been a significant increase in the number of foreclosed homes throughout the nation. These foreclosures and abandoned properties have negatively affected our national economy, communities throughout our nation and all of us as individuals.

The City of Glendale is no different than other communities, in that is being impacted by the current housing market. It seems that everywhere I go homeowners are concerned about vacant and abandoned properties and what effect the property can have on their neighborhoods. The longer that a property remains vacant, the greater the chance of that property becoming blighted, attracting criminal activity and serving as a destabilizing factor on the rest of the neighborhood.

If you notice or suspect an abandoned home with maintenance issues in your neighborhood, I encourage you to contact the Glendale Code Compliance Department at 623-930-3610. The mission of this department - regardless of the status of a property – is to maintain established neighborhood standards that preserve and promote the health and safety of our community and neighborhoods, which can include addressing “life safety” or “general nuisance” violations. Life safety issues (for example – a private swimming pool filled with water that is accessible to the public) will immediately be addressed, regardless of whether the property is foreclosed or abandoned. For “general nuisance” violations, once the legal owner of record has been identified, a notice of violation is issued and the person has up to 30-days to resolve the code violation. “General nuisance” violations are typically excessive weed and debris, loose trash, and other items that cause blight on the property. If the general nuisance violation is not corrected by the owner within 30-days, the city will take the steps necessary to clean the property and file lien against it, which will charge the costs back to the property’s owner.

There are other proactive steps you and your neighbors can take if you feel that foreclosures and vacancies are affecting the quality of your neighborhood. You can form a neighborhood organization and register with the city of Glendale by calling the Neighborhood Partnership Office at 623-930-2868. As a registered neighborhood, you will have access to a wide range of services to help improve your neighborhood.

You can also improve the appearance of your neighborhood by scheduling a neighborhood clean-up effort by contacting the City Volunteer Program at 623-930-2915. Through this program, the city can help you organize a team of volunteers for the clean-up effort and also loan you tools to use.

If you see any suspicious activity related to abandoned or vacant properties contact the Glendale Police Department at 623-930-3300. Your neighborhood can also request a crime prevention workshop or block watch activities from the Community Action Team in Police at 623-930-3380. Report graffiti by calling the city's graffiti removal hotline at 623-930-3080. To report graffiti in progress, please call 911.

If you find yourself unable to keep up with your mortgage during these difficult economic times there are free community resources available to help you with your situation. Homeowners who are either delinquent on their mortgage or face foreclosure now have a new, dedicated 24/7 toll-free help line to reach a local Arizona foreclosure counselor. This service is sponsored by the Governor's Office. Call 1-877-448-1211 to connect with a local, certified foreclosure counselor.

Additionally, the City's Community Action Program (CAP) may be able to assist those in danger of becoming homeless with emergency rent, utility, and/or foreclosure assistance. To see if you are eligible, please call the CAP Office at 623-930-2854.

[\(Click Here\)](#) for many other free resources related to foreclosures and important tips if you are in danger of foreclosure.

Thank you taking the time to read my "Glendale Bulletins". Please contact me at (623) 930-2260 or mayorscruggs@glendaleaz.com, if you have any comments or questions. I strive to provide the most timely information and best possible service to you, the citizens of Glendale. I sincerely appreciate your feedback.

s.