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For Immediate Release:

\$1 million in Funding to Demolish

Blighted Tax-Foreclosed Properties in the Out-County

The Genesee County Board of Commissioners approved a request from the County Treasurer to provide \$1 million in funding to demolish blighted tax-foreclosed properties in the out-county. “Demolishing these problem properties that were abandoned by former property owners will go a long way to help increase public safety, stabilize property values and enhance economic development opportunities,” said Genesee County Treasurer, Deb Cherry.

Based on GCLB’s initial property inspections at the time of foreclosure, more than 230 residential and commercial tax-foreclosed properties held by the Treasurer or the GCLB in out-county communities are blighted. Townships and cities in the out-county will have an opportunity to submit a request to demolish some of these properties. The Treasurer hopes that communities will match the funds provided to further blight elimination efforts. The number of properties to be demolished will depend upon the amount of funding leveraged and the type and size of properties selected for demolition. While the average cost to demolish a commercial structure is approximately \$60,000, the average cost of a residential demolition is around \$11,600. All communities impacted by tax foreclosure will have an opportunity to apply for and benefit from these blight elimination funds.

The GCLB will be responsible for managing the site selection and demolition process in compliance with all state, federal and local regulations. They will use a competitive bidding process to ensure that qualified contractors are selected to do the work at a reasonable cost. The GCLB will work closely with local communities to select the properties, secure utility cuts, and permits and seek additional funds for demolition and blight elimination. Demolishing high priority tax-foreclosed properties in the out-county will go a long way to help attract new investment and stabilize neighborhoods.