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**GENESEE COUNTY LAND BANK**

**PRIORITIES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

As approved by the Board of Directors on \_\_\_\_\_, 2004

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The acquisition and disposition of properties of the Genesee County Land Bank (the “Land Bank”), shall be governed by the following basic priorities and policies.

The acquisition, use, and disposition of such properties shall at all times be consistent with the authority granted by the Constitution of Michigan, the laws of the state of Michigan, the Land Bank Act, the articles of incorporation and bylaws of the Land Bank, and the public purposes set forth in the foregoing.

## **1. Policies Governing the Acquisition of Properties**

In determining which, if any, properties shall be acquired by the Land Bank the Land Bank shall give consideration to the following factors:

1. Proposals and requests by nonprofit corporations that identify specific properties for ultimate acquisition and redevelopment.
2. Proposals and requests by governmental entities that identify specific properties for ultimate use and redevelopment.
3. Residential properties that are occupied or are available for immediate occupancy without need for substantial rehabilitation.
4. Improved properties that are the subject of an existing order for demolition of the improvements and properties that meet the criteria for demolition of improvements.
5. Vacant properties that could be placed into the Side Lot Disposition Program.
6. Properties that would be in support of strategic neighborhood stabilization and revitalization plans.
7. Properties that would form a part of a land assemblage development plan.
8. Properties that will generate operating resources for the functions of the Land Bank.

The Treasurer may combine properties from one or more of the foregoing categories in structuring the terms and conditions of the statutorily required auctions of the tax foreclosure properties, and may acquire any such properties prior to auctions, at such auctions, or subsequent to auctions as authorized by law. In determining the nature and extent of the properties to be acquired the Treasurer shall also give consideration to underlying values of the subject properties, the financial resources available for acquisitions, the operational capacity of the Land Bank, and the projected length of time for transfer of such properties to the ultimate transferees.

## **2. Priorities Concerning the Disposition of Properties**

The disposition of properties shall be based upon a combination of three different factors. The first factor involves the intended or planned use of the property. The second factor considers the nature and identity of the transferee of the property. The third factor addresses the impact of the property transfer on the short and long term neighborhood and community development plans. Within each factor is a ranking of priorities. The disposition of any given parcel will be based upon an assessment of the most efficient and effective way to maximize the aggregate policies and priorities. The Board and Staff of the Land Bank shall at all times retain flexibility in evaluating the appropriate balancing of the priorities for the use of property, priorities as to the nature of the transferee of properties, and priorities concerning neighborhood and community development.

### Priorities for Use of Property

1. Neighborhood revitalization.
2. Homeownership and affordable housing.
3. Return of the property to productive tax paying status.
4. Land assemblage for economic development.
5. Long term “banking” of properties for future strategic uses.
6. Provision of financial resources for operating functions of the Land Bank.

### Priorities as to the Nature of the Transferee

1. Qualified nonprofits corporations that will hold title to the property on a long-term basis (primarily rental properties) or hold title to the property for purposes of subsequent reconveyance to private third parties for homeownership.
2. Governmental entities.
3. Nonprofit institutions such as academic institutions and religious institutions.
4. Entities that are a partnership, limited liability corporation, or joint venture comprised of a private nonprofit corporations and a private for-profit entity.
5. Individuals who own and occupy residential property for purposes of the Side Lot Disposition Program.

Individuals and entities that were the prior owners of property at the time of the tax foreclosure which transferred titled to the Treasurer shall be ineligible to be the transferee of such property from the Treasurer.

### Priorities Concerning Neighborhood and Community Development

1. The preservation of existing stable and viable neighborhoods.
2. Neighborhoods in which a proposed disposition will assist in halting a slowly occurring decline or deterioration.
3. Neighborhoods which have recently experienced or are continuing to experience a rapid decline or deterioration.
4. Geographic areas which are predominantly non-viable for purposes of residential or commercial development.
5. Within and among each of the first four priorities shall be a concurrent priority for targeted geographic areas for which a qualified strategic development plan has been approved.

### **3. Factors in Determining Consideration Due Upon Transfers**

The following factors shall constitute general guidelines for determination of the consideration to be received by the Land Bank for the transfer of properties. In each and every transfer of real property the Land Bank shall require good and valuable consideration in an amount not less than the lower of the fair market value of the property or the Property Costs. "Property Costs" shall mean the aggregate costs and expenses of the Land Bank attributable to the specific property in question, including costs of acquisition, maintenance, repair, demolition, marketing of the property and indirect costs of the operations of the Land Bank allocable to the property.

The amount of consideration shall be determined by the Land Bank in its sole discretion. The consideration to be provided by the transferee to the Land Bank may take the form of cash, deferred financing, performance of contractual obligations, imposition of restrictive covenants, or other obligations and responsibilities of the transferee, or any combination thereof.

1. Transfers to Nonprofit entities for affordable housing.
  - (a) Transfers of property to nonprofit entities for the development, operation or maintenance of affordable housing shall require consideration not less than the Project Costs.
  - (b) Consideration shall be established at a level between the Property Costs and fair market value of the property. To the extent that the consideration exceeds the Property Costs, such amount shall be reflected by a combination of contractual obligations to develop, maintain, or preserve the property for specified affordable housing purposes. Such amount may be secured by subordinate financing in which amortization of the obligation occurs by virtue of annual performance of the required conditions.
  - (c) The dominant priority in determining the amount of and method of payment of the consideration shall be to facilitate the development of affordable housing and simultaneously to ensure that the property is dedicated over an appropriate period of time for affordable housing.
2. Transfers to Governmental Entities.
  - (a) To the extent that transfers of property to governmental entities are designed to be held by such governmental entities in perpetuity for governmental purposes, the aggregate consideration for the transfer shall be based upon deed restrictions upon the use of the property.
  - (b) To the extent that transfers of property to governmental entities are anticipated as conduit transfers by such governmental entities to third parties, the consideration shall consist of not less than then Property Costs, to be paid in

cash, The difference between the Property Costs and the fair market value may be included in consideration depending upon the relationship between the anticipated uses and the governing priorities of the Land Bank.

3. Side Lot Disposition Program.

The pricing policies applicable to the Side Lot Disposition Program shall be as set for in the policies and procedures applicable to the Side Lot Disposition Program.

4. Transfers of Property at Open Market Conditions.

- (a) Property that is transferred on the open real estate market, whether through auction or negotiated transfers, without restrictions as to future use shall be based upon consideration equal to the fair market value of the property. Such consideration shall be paid in full at the time of the transfer.

## 4. Side Lot Disposition Program

Individual parcels of property may be acquired by the Treasurer, the County, or the Land Bank Authority, and transferred to individuals in accordance with the following policies. The transfer of any given parcel of property in the Side Lot Disposition Program is subject to override by higher priorities as established by the Land Bank.

### A. Side Lot Disposition Policies

1. Qualified Properties. Parcels of property eligible for inclusion in the Side Lot Disposition Program shall meet the following minimum criteria:
  - (a) The property shall be vacant unimproved real property.
  - (b) The property shall be physically contiguous to adjacent owner-occupied residential property, with not less than a 75% common boundary line at the side.
  - (c) The property shall consist of no more than one lot capable of development. Initial priority shall be given to the disposition of properties of insufficient size to permit independent development.
  - (d) No more than one lot may be transferred per contiguous lot.
  
2. Transferees.
  - (a) All transferees must own the contiguous property, and priority is given to Transferees who personally occupy the contiguous property.
  - (b) The transferee must not own any real property (including both the contiguous lot and all other property in Genesee County) that is subject to any unremediated citation of violation of the state and local codes and ordinances.
  - (c) The transferee must not own any real property (including both the contiguous lot and all other property in Genesee County) that is tax delinquent.
  - (d) The transferee must not have been the prior owner of any real property in Genesee County that was transferred to the Treasurer or to a local government as a result of tax foreclosure proceedings unless the Land Bank approves the anticipated disposition prior to the effective date of completion of such tax foreclosure proceedings.
  
3. Pricing
  - (a) Parcels of property that are not capable of independent development may be transferred for nominal consideration.
  - (b) Parcels of property that are capable of independent development shall be transferred for consideration in an amount not less than the

amount of the costs incurred in acquisition, demolition and maintenance of the lot.

4. Additional Requirements

- (a) As a condition of transfer of a lot the transfer must enter into an agreement that the lot transferred will be consolidated with the legal description of the contiguous lot, and not subject to subdivision or partition within a five year period following the date of the transfer.
- (b) In the event that multiple adjacent property owners desire to acquire the same side lot, the lot shall either be transferred to the highest bidder for the property, or divided and transferred among the interested contiguous property owners.

**B. Side Lot Disposition Procedures**

1. The prospective buyer must submit the following documents to the Land Bank Transaction Specialist:
  - (1) List of property address(es)
  - (2) Project Description – property use must be consistent with current zoning requirements
  - (3) A Picture Identification
  - (4) Proof of Social Security Number
  - (5) Evidence of compliance with all Land Bank Side Lot Disposition Policies
2. Within a 30-day period of receiving a complete request packet, the Transaction Specialist will complete a basic analysis and present it the Land Bank Director or such other persons as designated by the Director for approval.
3. Once the project has been approved, the Transaction Specialist will compile the closing documents for property transfer and complete the transaction with the buyer.

## **5. Residential Land Transfers**

### **A. Residential Land Transfer Policies**

These policies pertain to transfers whose future use is residential. At time of transfer the property may be vacant, improved or ready to occupy.

1. The transferee must not own any real property that has any unremediated citation of violation of the state and local codes and ordinances.
2. The transferee must not own any real property that is tax delinquent.
3. The subject property must not have been used by the transferee or a family member of the transferee as his or her personal residence at any time during the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the submission of application (except in rental cases).
4. The transferee must not have been the prior owner of any real property in Genesee County that was transferred to the Treasurer or to a local government as a result of tax foreclosure proceedings unless the Land Bank approves the anticipated disposition prior to the effective date of completion of such tax foreclosure proceedings.
5. The use of transferred property must give consideration to the Community/Neighborhood Plan (if one is in place) and received a letter of comment from the appropriate planning groups.
6. Parcels of property shall be transferred for consideration in an amount not less than the lower of the fair market value or the amount of the costs incurred in acquisition, demolition and maintenance of the lot/building.
7. All development projects should be started and completed within a time frame negotiated with Land Bank.
8. Options are available for 10% of the parcel price for up to a 12-month period. This fee will be credited to the parcel price at closing. If closing does not occur, the fee is forfeited. All option agreements are subject to all policies and procedures of the Land Bank pertaining to property transfers.
9. A precise narrative description of future use of the property is required.
10. Transactions shall be structured in a manner that permits the Land Bank to enforce recorded covenants or conditions upon title pertaining to development and use of the property for a specified period of time. Such restrictions may be enforced, in certain cases, through reliance on subordinate financing held by the Land Bank.
11. The transferee must agree to pay future property taxes from time of transfer.
12. If code or ordinance violations exist with respect to the property at the time of the transfer, the transfer agreements shall specify a maximum

period of time for elimination or correction of such violations, with the period of time be established as appropriate to the nature of the violation of the anticipated redevelopment or reuse of the property.

13. The proposed use must be consistent with current zoning requirements or a waiver for non-conforming use is a condition precedent to the transfer.
14. Where part or all of the consideration for the transfer is the prospective affordability of the housing units, affordability requirements will be set forth in the transfer agreement and enforceable through recorded covenants, conditions or limitations upon title.
15. Where rehabilitation of a property by the transferee is a condition of the transfer, the requirement for such rehabilitation shall be in accordance with rehabilitation standards as established by the Land Bank and adequate completion of such rehabilitation shall be a condition to the release of restrictions or lien securing such performance.

The following additional policies shall apply to properties to be transferred to individual transferees as part of a homeownership program.

16. The owner-occupant must complete renovations and move into the structure within a time frame negotiated by the Land Bank.
17. The property may not be used as rental property.
18. For properties transferred for cash consideration below full fair market value of the property, the owner-occupant must reside in the property as his or her primary residence for at least a 5-year period. If the property is sold prior to the 5-year period the transferee must sell the property for no more than the purchase price from the Land Bank plus all cost of property improvements plus a 5% annual inflation rate.
19. Parcels of property shall be transferred for consideration in an amount not less than the lower of fair market value or the amount of the costs incurred in acquisition, demolition and maintenance of the lot/building.

## **B. Residential Land Transfer Procedures – Individual Transferees**

1. The prospective transferee must submit the following documents to the Land Bank Transaction Specialist:
  - (1) List of property address
  - (2) Rehabilitation / Improvement Specifications
  - (3) Time Line for Rehabilitation / Improvement Completion (if applicable)
  - (4) Project Financing (Pre-Qualification Letter for Lender)
  - (5) Development Budget (if applicable)
  - (6) Most Recent Tax Return
  - (7) A Picture Identification

- (8) Proof of Social Security Number
2. Within a 30-day period of receiving a complete request packet, the Transaction Specialist will complete a basic analysis and present it to the Land Bank Director for approval.
3. Once the project has been approved, the Transaction Specialist will compile the closing documents for property transfer and complete the transaction with the transferee.

### **C. Residential Land Transfer Procedures – Corporate Transferees**

1. Required Application Documentation. The prospective buyer must submit the following documents to the Land Bank Transaction Specialist.
  - (1) List of property address(es)
  - (2) Project Description
  - (3) Development Team Description, including complete information on the following parties:
    - (a) Developer:
    - (b) Co-developer/Partner:
    - (c) Owner:
    - (d) General Contractor:
    - (e) Consultants:
    - (f) Architect:
    - (g) Project Manager (during construction):
    - (h) Lead Construction Lender:
    - (i) Marketing Agent:
    - (j) Project Management (post-construction):
  - (4) Market Information / Plan
  - (5) Project Financing
  - (6) Development Budget
  - (7) All Rental Transactions Must Attach an Operating Budget
  - (8) Most Recent Audited Financial Statement
  - (9) Evidence of compliance with all applicable Land Bank policies
2. Following receipt of a completed application, the Transaction Specialist will complete a basic analysis and present it the Land Bank Director or such other persons as designated by the Director for approval.
3. Once the project has been approved the Transaction Specialist will compile the closing documents for property transfer, and complete the transaction with the buyer.

## **6. Commercial Land Transfers**

### **A. Commercial Land Transfer Policies**

These policies pertain to transfers of real property for which the intended future use is non-residential. At time of transfer the property may be vacant, improved or ready to occupy.

1. The transferee must not own any real property that has any unremediated citation of violation of the state and local codes and ordinances.
2. The transferee must not own any real property that is tax delinquent.
3. The transferee must not have been the prior owner of any real property in Genesee County that was transferred to the Treasurer or to a local government as a result of tax foreclosure proceedings unless the Land Bank approves the anticipated disposition prior to the effective date of completion of such tax foreclosure proceedings.
4. The use of transferred property must give consideration to the Community/Neighborhood Plan (if one is in place) and received a letter of comment from the appropriate planning groups.
5. Potential tenants must give consideration to the Community/Neighborhood Plan (if one is in place) and received a letter of comment from the appropriate planning groups.
6. Parcels of property shall be transferred for consideration in an amount not less than the lesser of the fair market value or the amount of the costs incurred in acquisition, demolition and maintenance of the lot/building.
7. All development projects should be started and completed within a time frame negotiated with the Land Bank.
8. Options are available for 10% of the parcel price for up to a 12-month period. This fee will be credited to the parcel price at closing. If closing does not occur, the fee is forfeited. All option agreements are subject to all policies and procedures of the Land Bank pertaining to property transfers.
9. A precise narrative description of future use of the property is required.
10. Transactions shall be structured in a manner that permits the Land Bank to enforce recorded covenants or conditions upon title pertaining to development and use of the property for a specified period of time. Such restrictions may be enforced, in certain cases, through reliance on subordinate financing held by the Land Bank.
11. The transferee must agree to pay future property taxes from time of transfer.
12. If code or ordinance violations exist with respect to the property at the time of the transfer, the transfer agreements shall specify a maximum

- period of time for elimination or correction of such violations, with the period of time be established as appropriate to the nature of the violation of the anticipated redevelopment or reuse of the property.
13. The proposed use must be consistent with current zoning requirements, or a waiver for non-conforming use is a condition precedent to the transfer.

## **B. Commercial Land Transfer Procedures**

1. Required Application Documentation. The prospective buyer must submit the following documents to the Land Bank Transaction Specialist.
  - (1) List of property address(es)
  - (2) Project Description
  - (3) Development Team Description, including complete information on the following parties:
    - (a) Developer:
    - (b) Co-developer/Partner:
    - (c) Owner:
    - (d) General Contractor:
    - (e) Consultants:
    - (f) Architect:
    - (g) Project Manager (during construction):
    - (h) Lead Construction Lender:
    - (i) Marketing Agent:
    - (j) Project Management (post-construction):
  - (4) Market Information / Plan
  - (5) Project Financing
  - (6) Development Budget
  - (7) Operating Budget
  - (8) Most Recent Audited Financial Statement
  - (9) List of Potential Tenants and pre-lease agreements
  - (10) Evidence of compliance with all applicable Land Bank policies
2. Following receipt of a completed application, the Transaction Specialist will complete a basic analysis and present it the Land Bank Director or such other persons as designated by the Director for approval.
3. Once the project has been approved the Transaction Specialist will compile the closing documents for property transfer, and complete the transaction with the buyer.

## **7. Approvals of Land Transfers**

### **A. Transfers Requiring Board Approval**

1. The Board of Directors must approve all transfers that require any exceptions to policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Directors.
2. The Board of Directors must approve all transfers in which the property in the hands of the transferee will be exempt from property taxes.
3. The Board of Directors must approve all transfers that involve more than one interested party.
4. The Board of Directors must approve all transfers for non-residential projects.
5. The Board of Directors must approve all transfers to governmental entities.

### **B. Transfers Requiring Director Approval**

1. The Director may approve all transfers in the Side Lot Disposition Program and may further delegate, by written policy, such approval authority.
2. The Director may approve all transfers to individuals as part of the homeownership program.
3. The Director may approve all single parcel land transfers (single-family) to nonprofit corporations for residential use. If a prospective transferee seeks to acquire more than three (3) properties within a twelve month period, the request must go to the Land Bank Board for approval.
4. All transfers authorized by the Director must be reported in writing to the Board of Directors at the immediately following Board meeting.

## **8. Requests from Non-Profit Organizations**

- A.** All policies and procedures of the Land Bank are applicable to non-profit entities, and such entities shall comply with all policies and procedures in all transactions with the Land Bank.
- B.** Requests by non-profit entities for housing development related transfers shall first be submitted in writing to the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (“LISC”).
- C.** LISC shall review the request and provide technical assistance to the non-profit entity to ensure that the application is completed in accordance with all Land Bank policies and procedures. The completed request shall be submitted by the non-profit entity to the Land Bank together with a written letter of evaluation from LISC.

## **9. Land Banking Policies**

The Land Bank is willing to receive title to properties from community development corporations and other entities, and hold title to such properties pending future use by the Land Bank, by the transferor of the property, or by other third parties. The receipt by the Land Bank of any and all conveyances of real property shall at all times be solely within the discretion of the Land Bank, and nothing in this policy shall be deemed to require the Land Bank to take title to any properties nor to limit the discretion of the Land Bank in negotiating the terms of its acquisition of any property, whether as donative transfers or otherwise.

All conveyances received by the Land Bank in its land banking capacity must comply with the requirements set forth below in Part A, and will be reviewed and considered by the Land Bank in accordance with the procedures set forth in Part B. If the transfer is approved by the Land Bank, the Land Bank shall hold the subject property, and may use or convey the subject property or any interest in the subject project, subject only to the right of repurchase set forth in Part C.

Following the transfer of any properties to the Land Bank in accordance with this policy, the Land Bank shall have the right, but not the obligation, to maintain, repair, demolish, clean, and grade the subject property and perform any and all other tasks and services with respect to the subject property as the Land Bank may deem necessary and appropriate in its sole discretion.

### **A. Requirements for Conveyances to the Land Bank in its Land Banking Capacity**

1. Property that is intended to be conveyed to the Land Bank and to be held by the Land Bank in its land banking capacity shall be clearly designated as such in the proposal for the transfer, and in the records of the Land Bank.
2. No property shall be transferred to the Land Bank pursuant to this land banking policy unless the transferor is either a private nonprofit entity or a governmental entity.
3. The subject property must be located in Genesee County, Michigan.
4. The subject property must not be occupied by any party or parties as of the date of transfer to the Land Bank.
5. The subject property must, as of the date of the transfer to the Land Bank, be free of any and all liens for ad valorem taxes, special assessments, and other liens or encumbrances in favor of local, state or federal government entities.
6. The subject property must, as of the date of the transfer to the Land Bank, be free of all outstanding mortgages and security instruments.

7. The Land Bank shall not receive and hold, at any given time, in excess of fifty (50) separate parcels of property from any given transferor.

#### **B. Procedures for Conveyances to the Land Bank in its Land Banking Capacity**

1. The transferor of any proposed conveyance to the Land Bank in its land banking capacity shall prepare a written proposal containing the following information:
  - (a) A legal description of the property.
  - (b) A title report, or other similar evidence, indicating that the property is free of all liens and encumbrances specified in Part A.
  - (c) A description of the transferor's intended uses of the property and the time frame for use and development of the property by the transferor.
2. Following receipt of the proposal, the Land Bank shall review the proposal and notify of the transferor of its approval or disapproval, and of any changes or additions that may be necessary as determined by the Land Bank in its sole discretion.

#### **C. Right of Repurchase by the Transferor**

1. The transferor shall have a right to repurchase the subject property from the Land Bank at any time within a period of three (3) years from the date of transfer to the Land Bank by giving notice to the Land Bank.
2. The right of repurchase may be exercised by the transferor upon payment to the Land Bank of the Purchase Price. The Purchase Price shall be an amount equal to (i) all expenditures of the Land Bank (whether made directly by the Land Bank or through payments to a third party contractor) in connection with the subject property incurred subsequent to the date of conveyance to the Land Bank, and (ii) an amount determined by the Land Bank as its average indirect costs, on a per parcel basis, of holding its portfolio of properties.
3. The Land Bank shall have the right, at any time within the three year period following the date of the original transfer, to require the transferor to exercise its right of repurchase by giving written notice to the transferor of the requirement that it exercise its right of repurchase and the amount of the Purchase Price. The transferor must exercise its right of repurchase, and close the reconveyance of the property within sixty (60) days of receipt of such notice. Failure of the transferor to exercise and close upon its right of repurchase within such period of time shall result in a termination of all rights of repurchase with respect to the subject property.

## **10. Transfer of Rehabilitated Properties**

These policies apply to the disposition by the Land Bank of improved real property which is rehabilitated by or on behalf of the Land Bank prior to its disposition to a transferee.

### **A. Rehabilitation and Marketing**

1. The Land Bank shall undertake, in its sole discretion, rehabilitation of properties prior to the transfer to third parties. The nature and extent of any such rehabilitation shall be determined by the Land Bank in its sole discretion.
2. At the commencement of rehabilitation a sign shall be placed on the property indicating that the property is owned by the Land Bank.
3. A real estate agent, or realtor, shall be selected in accordance with Land Bank guidelines to assist in the marketing of the property. A listing agreement will normally be signed with such agent approximately two months prior to completion of the rehabilitation. Marketing of the property will normally commence at this point. The Land Bank Office Manager will make available information on the property and on the procedures to be followed by parties interested in the possible acquisition of the property.

### **B. Sale of Rehabilitated Properties**

1. A nonrefundable escrow deposit shall be required for all contracts for the disposition of property rehabilitated by the Land Bank. Such deposit shall be in an amount established by the Land Bank, but shall not be less than \$500 for a purchase price less than \$30,000, and \$1000 for a purchase price greater than \$30,000.
2. A sales contract shall be submitted to a Transaction Specialist for review, and must comply with all policies and procedures of the Land Bank. The sales contract shall not be binding upon the Land Bank until approved by the Director, or by the Board of Directors if required by Land Bank policies and procedures.
3. Closing of the transfer shall occur with the assistance of a title company selected and approved in accordance with the Land Bank guidelines.