

Community-Based Organizations' Mission in Redeveloping Brownfields, Vacant, and Abandoned Properties

Rosalind Greenstein

Roz@lincolnst.edu

Atlanta, Georgia

May 6, 2006



Agenda For This Session

- How redeveloping brownfields, vacant, and abandoned properties fits with the mission of community-based organizations.
- How community-based organizations can be most effective in redeveloping such properties.



Rationale For Community-Based Developers' Involvement

- Promote social change by controlling economic resources to solve economic challenges facing low-income residents.
- Address barriers to redevelopment; act to reduce perceptions of market risk, and to demonstrate potential for profitable investment.

Criteria For Community-Based Vacant Property Redevelopment Projects

- Emerge from community organizing that identifies community priorities and empowers residents.
- Benefit low-income residents in employment and increased control of assets.
- Financially viable but not projects the private sector would have undertaken.

Roles in Redevelopment: Pittsburgh and Detroit

- Outreach and education
- Facilitator
- Intermediary or “predeveloper”
- Developer and co-developer





If redeveloping vacant, abandoned, and contaminated properties fits the mission of community-based organizations,

how can this redevelopment be most effective?



