



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

City of Middletown

CONNECTICUT 06457

SEBASTIAN N. GIULIANO
MAYOR

Office of the Mayor City of Middletown

245 deKoven Drive
Middletown, CT 06457-1300

Press Release

Contact: Mayor Sebastian N. Giuliano
Phone: (860) 344-3401

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
07/10/09

Mayor Sebastian N. Giuliano has dedicated his office to the creation of new stronger ordinance language to tackle blighted buildings within the City.

Giuliano said, "residents and property owners that have lived with run-down structures have gotten little more than frustration in response to their efforts to improve their neighborhoods. This has gone on far too long. It's time to strengthen our enforcement options and to give our City departments the tools necessary to get uncooperative property owners more actively engaged in maintaining, repairing and cleaning their properties."

Giuliano joined several City Council representatives at a local June forum hosted by the North End Action Team regarding the policy, public safety and economic ramifications of such blighted structures dotting the City's neighborhoods.

"The discussion with impacted residents made clear that the time from complaint to effective action needs to be shortened. Our departments have been doing the best they can, given what they have to work with, but our ordinances do not match current day needs and inadequately address the abuses by property owners -- especially by absentee owners," said Giuliano.

The Mayor added, “at the forum, Council representatives and I agreed that we could expedite the legislative process through the various City committees. The goal is to adopt more effective ordinances that would streamline the enforcement process and improve code compliance. In our efforts to compile the best system, we are reviewing other communities’ codes and ordinances as well as assessing their relative effectiveness. Among those being reviewed are Bristol’s and Bridgeport’s. We’ve already circulated them among the departments for feedback. We need to adopt a plan sooner rather than later.” The target for publication and adoption of a new blight ordinance is September.