

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Tri-COG Land Bank Puts its First Houses on the Market**

Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> the Tri-COG Land Bank (TCLB) will begin marketing its first two houses, a 2 bedroom property in Turtle Creek and a 3 bedroom home in Braddock Hills. These are the first houses to be listed for sale by a land bank in Allegheny County.

TCLB purchased the 2 bedroom home in October 2018 after Turtle Creek Borough officials recommended it. The house was filled with rubbish and previously received multiple citations for vegetation and overgrowth. After buying the property, TCLB cleaned it out and cleared the yard of brush. The land bank also completed a legal process to clear the title, a critical step to protect buyers from liability for past owners' unpaid bills and taxes. The house will be sold as is, with a listing price of \$18,000 and necessary renovations estimated at \$20,450.

In Braddock Hills, TCLB acquired the 3 bedroom home in June 2018. Municipal representatives reported that the house had been vacant for as long as they could remember. The house was filled with trash and debris, so in June 2018 TCLB partnered with Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh and Hosanna Industries who hosted a clean-out day with over 25 volunteers. TCLB also began regular landscaping services and got past debts forgiven in order to offer an insurable title. The house will be sold as is, with a listing price of \$10,000 and necessary renovations estimated at \$94,172.

"We are so excited to turn these abandoned properties into new homes for local community members," said Executive Director An Lewis. "These houses have a fresh start and a clear title, with new residents moving in the neighborhood becomes stronger and more resilient."

Prospective buyers can visit the Tri-COG Land Bank website for more information on these properties, to learn more about the purchase process, and to obtain an application: <https://tricoglandbank.org>.

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### About the Tri-COG Land Bank

Founded in 2017, the Tri-COG Land Bank (TCLB) revitalizes neighborhoods by transitioning vacant, blighted properties to beneficial reuse. TCLB partners with local municipalities, community development corporations, nonprofits, and individuals to strategically align purchases with each community's priorities and plans.

TCLB currently owns 32 properties and operates in Blawnox, Braddock Hills, Chalfant, Churchill, Clairton, Dravosburg, East Pittsburgh, Edgewood, Etna, Forest Hills, McKeesport, Millvale, Monroeville, North Braddock, Pitcairn, Rankin, Sharpsburg, South Versailles, Swissvale, Turtle Creek, White Oak, and

Wilkins. It shares staff with the Steel Rivers Council of Governments and the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments.

For more information, please visit <https://tricoglandbank.org/>.