

# THE GATE

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## Councilman Nash Sponsors Urban Legislation

For the past year, Councilman Troy Nash has been fighting for legislation which would waive tax liens placed on property for the demolition of dangerous buildings.

On January 18, Councilman Nash unveiled the "Nash Neighborhood Bill

of Rights" to neighborhood and community leaders.

Part of the Bill of Rights included the following:

"I pledge to fight to ensure that statutes be enacted to allow for the removal of demolition liens placed against properties when those liens exceed

fair market of the value of the properties."

Working in conjunction with the State of Missouri, the City Council recently sponsored this state legislation to allow for the removal of the demolition liens in order to encourage development on properties where demolition liens

defer development. The new legislation allows the city to discharge these tax bills "upon determination by the city that a public benefit will be gained."

"I am pleased that after hard work and cooperation with the State Legislature, I am able to deliver on the pledge that I made over a year ago," said Councilman Nash. "This legislation is one more tool that we can use to rebuild and revitalize our community," Nash

said. Demolition liens have deterred new development on vacant properties, which often remain vacant for many years, prolonging

the blighting influences of dilapidated vacant lots in neighborhoods throughout the urban core.

The tax bills from these demolitions often exceed the value of the property, and place an additional tax lien on these properties. Returning the properties to productive use is the main objective of the program.

There are currently 592 properties with demolition liens for a total of \$4, 642, 311, within the city limits of Kansas City.

Demolition liens occur predominantly in residential environments. A majority, 65 percent of the liens, are found in the third council district, according to Councilman Nash.

Demolition liens often occur in areas with large amounts of vacant, underutilized land which creates the potential for marketing and packaging demolition lien waivers as part of further redevelopment/in-fill projects in the urban core.