



**For Immediate Release**  
**Contact: Nick Zabawsky**  
**(518) 843-0604**

**Capital Region Land Bank to Demolish 42-48 Forbes Street to Improve the City of Amsterdam's Eastern Gateway**

**Commences Demolition Project to Removes Nine Blighted and Derelict Buildings**

**Amsterdam, NY (December 4, 2017)** Representatives from The Capital Region Land Bank and the City of Amsterdam met at the site of three blighted homes at 42-48 Forbes Street to commence demolition activity in the East End neighborhood. Overall, the project will remove nine long vacant and abandoned properties utilizing funding awarded to the Land Bank for community revitalization work in Amsterdam and Schenectady.

Bob DiCaprio, Land Bank Vice-Chairman from the City of Amsterdam said, "42-48 Forbes is very visible from the NYS Route-5 corridor into downtown and has been a sign of blight for too long. We are pleased to work with the City of Amsterdam to demolish unsafe and unsightly buildings to spur future community and neighborhood development in our City. This demolition project will help the East End neighborhood and follows up our successful renovation projects last year."

Mayor Michael Villa said, "The Land Bank has partnered with the City and other community partners to bring over \$1 million in community redevelopment resources over the past two years. The East End demolition project is an important part of our effort to improve the eastern gateway to the City and the neighborhood as a whole."

This demolition project follows the rehabilitation of seven buildings (13 dwelling units) on Austin Street, Division Street, Guy Park Avenue, Brookside Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, and James Street during 2017. The rehabilitation efforts represented over \$700,000 of construction activity, and was undertaken in partnership with the Amsterdam Urban Renewal Agency and Rivercrest Development Corporation.

The Land Bank received five proposals from demolition contractors and awarded the project to the low bidder, Bronze Contracting LLC for \$284,750. The properties to be demolished include: 42-48 Forbes Street; 26 Jackson Street; 73 Forbes Street; 19 John Street; 33 John Street; 36 John Street; and 38 John Street.

(more)

The demolitions are paid for by the Land Bank through funding secured through Attorney General Eric Schneiderman settlements with the nation's largest banks over misconduct that contributed to the housing crisis. The grant is administered by Enterprise Community Partners.

The Capital Region Land Bank was established in 2012 as one of the first land banks formed in New York State. The Land Bank's mission is to strengthen neighborhoods within Schenectady and Amsterdam by mitigating blight. More information and a list of Land Bank owned properties for sale can be found at [www.capitalregionlandbank.com](http://www.capitalregionlandbank.com).