



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: State Agency Releases Video Showcasing Marion’s Success with Blight Elimination

(MARION, IN) April 12th, 2017 – The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCD) has recognized the City of Marion for outstanding participation in their Blight Elimination Program by producing and releasing a video. Marion and Gary were the only cities in the state recognized by the IHCD through these short documentaries.

“IHCD spotlighted the City of Marion because of how quickly and efficiently they were able to get their HHF Blight Elimination Program up and running. Marion was one of the very first cities to complete demolition on their selected list of properties, and through the cost savings they achieved, they will be able to address even more properties than originally anticipated,” said Mark Neyland, IHCD Director of Asset Preservation.

For the past three years, the City of Marion has partnered with the Affordable Housing Community Development Corporation (AHC) of Marion to participate in the Indiana Foreclosure Prevention Program/Hardest Hit Fund Blight Elimination Program. Through this partnership, the City has been awarded funding for blight elimination 3 times. To date, the IHCD has awarded Marion a total of \$1,664,000 to demolish 80 homes. 64 of those demolitions have already been completed. The total funding includes an additional \$174,000 this year after Marion demonstrated continued excellence in the program.

The BEP is an outside funding system the City has been utilizing to boost their existing blight-fighting program, in which the City helps property owners with emergency demos of unsafe structures.

City of Marion Building Commissioner Jerry Foustnight said it was an honor to know that the City was selected to share its success story. “We are performing the requirements to the best of our ability, and each year finish what we said we would do. Foustnight emphasized the importance of teamwork. “We have the best people for the job to achieve the goals set before us.”

The video may be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nil-bHtJBv0>

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