



City of Eustis
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For Immediate Release –

Eustis Demolition Program Update for 2007

EUSTIS – Phase IV of the Demolition of Vacant, Abandoned and Dilapidated Structures Program has progressed to the demolition stage according to the City of Eustis' Development Services Division.

A total of eight structures will be demolished beginning January 16 under the program. The structures are located within the Eustis Community Redevelopment Area, which is situated in the area generally north of Orange Avenue, south of Getford Road, east of Lake Eustis, and west of Wall Street.

The City Commission established the Demolition of Vacant, Abandoned, and Dilapidated Structures Program in 2000 in order to help restore properties to productive economic use. The Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) is the source of funding for the program. Since the establishment of the program, 35 structures have been demolished. The program is voluntary and structures are selected by interested property owners contacting City staff or by City staff contacting property owners.

The City's Development Services Division administers the program, which takes approximately one year to complete, from the initial identification of structures to the actual demolition and lot clearing. Staff works closely with the property owners during the year-long process that includes verifying ownership, obtaining funding approval from the City Commission, ensuring personal belongings have been removed and utilities are disconnected, and notifying owners of the pending demolition date.

Benefits of the program are numerous and include: removing abandoned structures that are havens for drug activities, increasing property values for adjacent homes and the entire neighborhood, and increasing desirability and livability of the neighborhood. Additional benefits are reducing code enforcement issues, enabling the property owner to redevelop the property with a new home, and increasing housing units for work force housing.

City Staff will be beginning Phase V of the program as this phase is completed. Property owners within the City of Eustis' Redevelopment Area who are interested in participating in the program and who believe their property qualifies, should contact the Development Services Division at 352-483-5460.

Released by: Michael G. Stearman, City Manager