

**DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING AND HOUSING
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Ordinance No. 858-2022

Description: Authorizes the Director of Building and Housing to enter into one or more agreements with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy to perform professional services relating to managing the City's door-to-door property survey, compiling the data, and performing other related services; authorizes the director to apply for and accept gifts and grants from any public or private entity to implement this ordinance.

Discussion: Cities need data concerning vacant properties and building conditions to make informed decisions regarding the use of limited resources for code enforcement, demolition and rehabilitation. Property inventories have become important tools for communities across the state. Western Reserve Land Conservancy has now completed property inventories in Akron, Dayton, Elyria, Lorain, Oberlin, and Sandusky. By preparing and conducting property inventories/surveys, Western Reserve Land Conservancy provides cities, townships and villages with information to most effectively target their limited resources, especially in the wake of the foreclosure crisis. A recognition of the importance of accurate and reliable data by which to assess a community's housing stock results in a focused survey criteria. Surveyors in the field assess grades from visual observations for every parcel, entering their responses into mobile devices equipped with a program to store and send data to WRLC's server. Their Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staff processes the data to compile interactive maps, which provide an overview of the survey area, with parcels color-coded to represent where they fall on the spectrum from vacant to occupied. Each individual parcel contains a package of information, including a photo, all of the data we have collected and other publicly available property data. These maps inform the planning process by helping officials visualize problem areas, identify trends and guide decision-making.

