



Wayne County

Robert A. Ficano, County Executive

NAP Newsletter

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NAP TEAM Goes To National Seminars to Share and Learn Best Practices and New Ideas

Wayne County Nuisance Abatement Program (NAP) team members have been recently traveling across the Country speaking at housing and land-use conferences about the NAP process. Though invited to speak about NAP, they have also been gaining great insight into the practices and problems of other municipalities regarding the growing problem of abandoned and vacant houses across America.

In July NAP attorneys Joseph Rogalski, a litigation specialist and community liaison Michael Russell went to Naples, Florida to speak with members of the national mortgage and banking community about NAP. They also learned from banking and mortgage officials about the problems that they face in handling the upkeep, security and rehabilitation of foreclosed properties.

One issue that has been a sore spot with community groups in Wayne County has been the inability to contact mortgage companies that own these vacant blighted homes. To address this issue the mortgage servicing industry is working with NAP to make it easier to contact mortgage company servicers about problems.

On August 27 and 28, the United States Department of Justice's Community Capacity Development Office hosted its national conference in Detroit on "Promoting Unity in Each Community." Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel Eric Sabree and Mike Russell were presenters along with representatives from San Diego, CA and Louisville, KY.

After their presentation, Sabree and Russell took a group of convention

attendees from across the Country on a tour of Detroit and Highland Park to show some of the successes and challenges we face.

Earlier in August, lead attorney Dia Chiku Mason and Atty. Russell were asked to attend and present information about NAP at a national mortgage servicers conference in Denver, Colorado. Again, the NAP system was highlighted as a best practice for government intervention regarding nuisance properties.

Recently, five members of the NAP team, including Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel Sabree, Attorneys Mason, Russell, and Rogalski, and support staff supervisor Serina Gordon, drove to Pittsburgh for the National Reclaiming Vacant Properties Seminar to learn other ideas about blight elimination. It was very informative, and provided opportunities to brainstorm with local as well as national representatives of all types of agencies and organizations addressing the vacant property epidemic in America. Though not presenting at this session, the NAP

REPORT NUISANCE PROPERTY

If you see abandoned, blighted property call the **Nuisance Abatement Program** Hotline at: (313) 224-5757.

Properties seized through NAP can be bought on the Wayne County NAP website at: www.waynecounty.com/WCAuctions

"NAP TALK"

Each issue we interview a member of the NAP team. We now call this section "Nap Talk." This issue we talk with NAP lead staff attorney,

Atty. Dia Chiku Mason

NT: Dia, as a litigation attorney, what is the most rewarding part of your job with NAP?

D.C.M.; Finding creative new ways to use the law to abate property nuisances.

NT: What is the most challenging part of your work at NAP?

DCM. Coming up with ideas to assist property owners in the prevention of blight and community



Members of the NAP team join the Michigan contention at the National Vacant Properties convention in Pittsburgh.