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## **City of Indianapolis announces next chapter of demolition at Towne and Terrace**

*Relocation, demolition, and patrol efforts mark continued commitment to the Far Eastside*

**INDIANAPOLIS** – Today, Mayor Joe Hogsett joined State Senator La Keisha Jackson, City-County Councilor Rena Allen and community leader Liz Durden to mark another milestone in the City's commitment to addressing public safety challenges at the [Towne and Terrace townhome complex](#). Starting this month, the City will demolish eight vacant buildings at the complex through a coordinated multi-agency effort, marking the next phase in the years-long process to address longstanding health and safety issues at the complex.

"We recognize that Towne and Terrace was once home to many. It was a place where memories were made and children grew up — but over time, it became a place of violence and a source of pain," said Mayor Joe Hogsett. "Between acquiring properties, assisting residents with relocation, and now demolishing eight derelict buildings, multiple City agencies are committed to helping breathe new life into this Far Eastside neighborhood."

Towne and Terrace, a townhome complex built in the 1960s, once stood as a staple neighborhood for Indianapolis' Far Eastside. After several decades of persistent neglect by various former HOA leaders and an uptick in illegal drug activity and violence, the quality of life for residents and the surrounding community began to decline.

This next phase of demolition at Towne and Terrace follows a directive ordered by a Receiver appointed by the Indiana Court of Appeals following a years-long legal battle and subsequent settlement between the City and Towne and Terrace Corp., the complex's homeowners' association. Under the order, the City was tasked with:

- Acquiring all remaining non-City-owned properties at the complex
- Relocating Towne & Terrace residents to safe and sanitary
- Carrying out a plan for demolition and subsequent redevelopment

The City currently owns 239 of the 258 parcels at Towne and Terrace. Many of the remaining 19 parcels are vacant and have yet to be acquired from private owners. One building was demolished starting in April 2023, and eight additional buildings will be demolished beginning today. The remaining 23 buildings are anticipated to be demolished by early 2026. Once demolition of the entire site is complete, the community-involved redevelopment process that began following the demolition of the nearby [Oaktree Apartments](#) will continue to move forward.

"Today marks a significant milestone in our efforts to enhance the quality of life for residents in the Far Eastside," said City-County Councilor Rena Allen, District 15. "By prioritizing their safety and

well-being, we are not only addressing past challenges but also paving the way for a revitalized community that offers hope and opportunity for all."

With help from the federal [American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\)](#), the City has dedicated more than \$14.4 million to this project. This includes total anticipated funding for property acquisition and demolition, relocation services, and maintenance. The Department of Business and Neighborhood Services (DBNS) awarded Denney Excavating, Inc. a \$1.2 million contract for the demolition of eight buildings.

"This effort represents a significant step forward for the Far Eastside community," said Senator La Keisha Jackson. "It's about more than clearing away buildings; it's about restoring hope, improving public safety, and laying the foundation for a brighter, stronger future for the families who call this neighborhood home. I look forward to seeing the economic development and the legacy that will occur from members of the community who have championed for a more inclusive community."

Since the start of demolition, there has already been a decrease in police calls for service and overall violent crime. The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) continues to patrol the complex and leverage improved surveillance and streetlights. Both have proven to be invaluable tools in alerting officers to potential issues before crimes occur, allowing for quicker response times.

"Through this next step, we are not only reducing opportunities for criminal activity, but also paving the way for revitalization," said East District Commander Michael Leepper. "This process allows us to create safer neighborhoods and improve public safety measures, all while working to connect residents with the resources they need for a brighter future," he added.

The City hired a team of experts to oversee the acquisition of all remaining non-City-owned property and relocation of eligible residents, following the standards outlined by the Federal Uniform Relocation Act. In addition to providing financial assistance for moving expenses and payment to purchase or rent a different home, DMD's community engagement specialist helps connect eligible residents with community resources such as workforce programs, health services, legal support, and more based on their needs to support them through the relocation process and beyond.

"I did not want to leave my home in Towne and Terrace at first, but the City's relocation efforts have been a game changer for tenants and owners alike," said Liz Durden. "They have significantly helped the community."

DMD has successfully relocated 100 households and continues to coordinate relocation with roughly 20 remaining households. The City expects full relocation for those households by the spring of 2025. For more information, please refer to the City's [guide on Towne and Terrace](#).

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