

RESOLUTION NO. 80

REVISING ALBANY COUNTY'S PROPERTY DISPOSITION PLAN TO REQUIRE AUCTION BIDDERS TO SUBMIT REHABILITATION PLANS

Introduced: 2/11/08

By Messrs. McCoy, Rahm, Higgins, Scavo and Ms. Chapman:

WHEREAS, By Resolution No. 190 for 2005, the Albany County Legislature revised the County's Property Disposition Plan to reduce chances that auctioned parcels would fall into the hands of bidders with little or no serious intention of rehabilitating or maintaining the properties, and

WHEREAS, The revisions were designed to ensure that those who win bids at County auctions of tax-foreclosed properties have demonstrated by prior actions a serious intent to improve and maintain the properties they own, or meet conditions relating to financing and code compliance when bidding on properties with historic, cultural, archeological or architectural significance, and

WHEREAS, Among the revisions are requirements that bidders on all properties certify that they have no unresolved building construction or fire safety code violations on properties they own or have not lost title to a property within two years because of delinquent tax foreclosure, and

WHEREAS, These safeguards to prevent speculators from buying tax-foreclosed properties and adding to the blight of abandoned buildings could be further strengthened with a requirement that bidders at County auctions state their intended use of the property, plans for rehabilitation of the property and how they plan to finance the improvements, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Director of Finance is requested to devise a questionnaire for bidders at County auctions of tax-foreclosed properties to state their intended use of the property, plans to rehabilitate the property and how the improvements would be financed, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Albany County Property Disposition Plan is amended to indicate that the Albany County Legislature shall consider the responses to the questionnaires in the approval process with respect to the disposal of property, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

Referred to Audit and Finance Committee. 2/11/08