



SPOTLIGHT ON SPLOST

WHAT IS SUBSTANDARD HOUSING ABATEMENT AND WHY IS IT ON THE SPLOST

In 2007, the City of Griffin began to work diligently to eliminate slum and blight conditions through the City. At that time there were approximately 1500 homes that were deemed substandard. In the last seven years, approximately 400 homes have been demolished through public and private initiatives. The process utilized by the City of Griffin has been adopted and utilized by other municipalities.

Currently, the City of Griffin can demolish 30 to 50 houses per year at a cost of approximately \$5,000 per structure. With the current annual budget of \$250,000 the City can demolish fifty (50) homes per year. At this rate, it would take approximately thirty (30) years to completely remove all substandard structures in the City of Griffin and during that time, the homes there were deemed in good to fair condition have now began to falter and/or deteriorate and the cycle continues.

In August 2012, the City of Griffin developed a Consolidated Housing & Community Development Plan that identified a strategy to address affordable housing throughout community. A significant part of this plan was how to address substandard housing within the City of Griffin. The plan has always been to address substandard housing in clusters to garner the greatest impact. The purpose of this plan is to promote and encourage home ownership, reducing the cost burden for housing and encouraging property maintenance. It is hoped that the reduction of substandard housing will foster and inspire compatible infill development within established neighborhoods.

How can **SPLOST** funding help to accomplish these goals? SPLOST funding will build on the Communities efforts by bringing together needed resources in a coordinated housing and community development strategy based on a participatory process among citizens, organizations, businesses, government, and other stakeholders. We will have the ability to leverage SPLOST funding to obtain additional funding from grants and federal sources to accomplish our objectives of rebuilding our city. Whether the goals and priorities are directly or indirectly related to housing, the overarching goal is to promote decent housing, establish a sustainable environment for expansion of economic opportunities for the community.

What can **SPLOST** do for you? This funding can and will continue the City's efforts to provide an opportunity for adequate and affordable housing; stabilize and strengthen neighborhoods and continue to eliminate substandard housing and blight. If we are able to address the blight in a definitive manner, it affords the city an expansion of economic opportunities that may have otherwise been omitted because of the blight.