



OFFICE OF MAYOR VIRG BERNERO
124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE – NINTH FLOOR
LANSING, MI 48933

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, March 27, 2017

CONTACT: Chad Gamble
517/285-7191

Blight Removal Begins: Cleanup and Demolition of Long-Shuttered Mobile Home Park Starts Today

Mayor Bernero: “Within a matter of weeks, the nuisance known as Life O’Riley Mobile Home Park will be no more.”

(LANSING) – Mayor Bernero today joined city officials and cleanup crews to begin environmental remediation and structural demolition of the former Life O’Riley mobile home park, closing the final chapter in the saga of the long-abandoned mobile home park in south Lansing and paving the way for redevelopment opportunities.

With the help of Ingham County Circuit Court Judge Clinton Canady III’s ruling, the City of Lansing was able to commence the necessary removal of environmental contaminants, demolition of remaining structures and other cleanup.

“The neighborhood has had to live with this blight far too long,” said Mayor Virg Bernero. “The city, county and state gave the owner of this derelict property every opportunity to clean up their mess, and now we have the legal authority to remove this eyesore from the neighborhood.”

The former Life O’Riley mobile home park, still owned by Whalen Holdings, LLC, was shut down more than three years ago by the Ingham County Health Department under a Notice of Condemnation Order for serious violations of health and safety standards. The State of Michigan suspended the owner’s license to operate a mobile home park, but gave the owner two years to bring the property into compliance.

Last week, city officials notified the surrounding neighborhoods of both the upcoming demolition work and the fact that the Lansing Police Department’s Tactical Team will conduct specialized training at the property. For citizen safety, LPD will have the site marked with training signs and barricades while they perform tactical exercises. The team will be utilizing and training in large open areas and on trailers that are scheduled for demolition.

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City officials and the owner of the property have worked together to allow this training to take place, and demolition contractors will be onsite and will assist during the training.

“These opportunities for advanced live training do not come along often,” Chief Mike Yankowski said. “The chance to conduct exercises in a controlled environment is so valuable to our tactical team. Being able to use this site and its security will ensure there will be no risk to the citizens or neighborhood.”

“I’m excited that this site will be cleaned up in a matter of weeks, and the fact that we can get in some valuable training for our police department is an added bonus,” said Mayor Bernero. “I thank the neighbors for their patience during this process, and I look forward to exploring potential redevelopment opportunities for this site once the path is clear.”

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