

# News from Virginia LISC

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The Virginia Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is dedicated to helping community residents transform distressed neighborhoods into healthy and sustainable communities of choice and opportunity — good places to work, do business and raise children. LISC mobilizes corporate, government and philanthropic support to provide local community development organizations with:

- loans, grants and equity investments
- local, statewide and national policy support
- technical and management assistance

Contact Candice Streett  
Executive Director  
cstreett@lisc.org  
804.358.7602, ext. 11

Veronica Jemmott  
Community Partnerships  
Manager  
vjemmott@lisc.org, ext. 12

Frances Stanley  
GIS/Research Analyst  
fstanley@lisc.org, ext. 13

## Greater Fulton Commercial Corridor



Helen Dunlap, a consultant with The Institute for Comprehensive Community Development returned to the Neighborhood Resource Center in December, 2011 to provide a review of Greater Fulton's commercial corridor opportunities for improvement to the Greater Fulton Economic Development committee. During Helen's presentation, she commented on how much work has been completed since the Institute's first visit in April of 2011.

Since that first visit, the Greater Fulton community has held several community cleanups, which included mural paintings with Arts in the Alley on several of the buildings along the corridor of Government and Williamsburg. The community is currently working with Store Front to create a beautification plan for the corridor.

There have also been discussions with the City to create a memorial park in honor of the community that lost housing during the urban renewal period of the 1970s. Stay Tuned, more to come.

**Read about Fulton's Corridor Project**

[www.instituteccd.org/case-studies/category/367](http://www.instituteccd.org/case-studies/category/367)

## Lending to the Community

- LISC will provide a **\$750,000** operating line of credit to the **Better Housing Coalition (BHC)**, one of its partners in Richmond. The line of credit will allow BHC to manage and move forward on its development pipeline, and will help bring affordable housing and redevelopment to low-income residents in a number of LISC's targeted sustainable community neighborhoods.
- LISC is providing a **\$2 million** line of credit to assist **Community Housing Partners (CHP)** in their preservation projects in Virginia and the Southeast region. The funds will be used in acquisition and predevelopment of existing housing developments where the loss of affordability is at risk.

## Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

- **Hull Street Corridor Revitalization Update -**

The City issued an RFP for the project on December 22, 2011. Proposals are due back to the City by February 8, 2012. For further information on the RFP visit:

[www.planning.org/uploads/consultants/requests/7621\\_HullStreetCorridor.pdf](http://www.planning.org/uploads/consultants/requests/7621_HullStreetCorridor.pdf)

- **Fulton Hill Commercial Corridor Zoning Plan RFP**

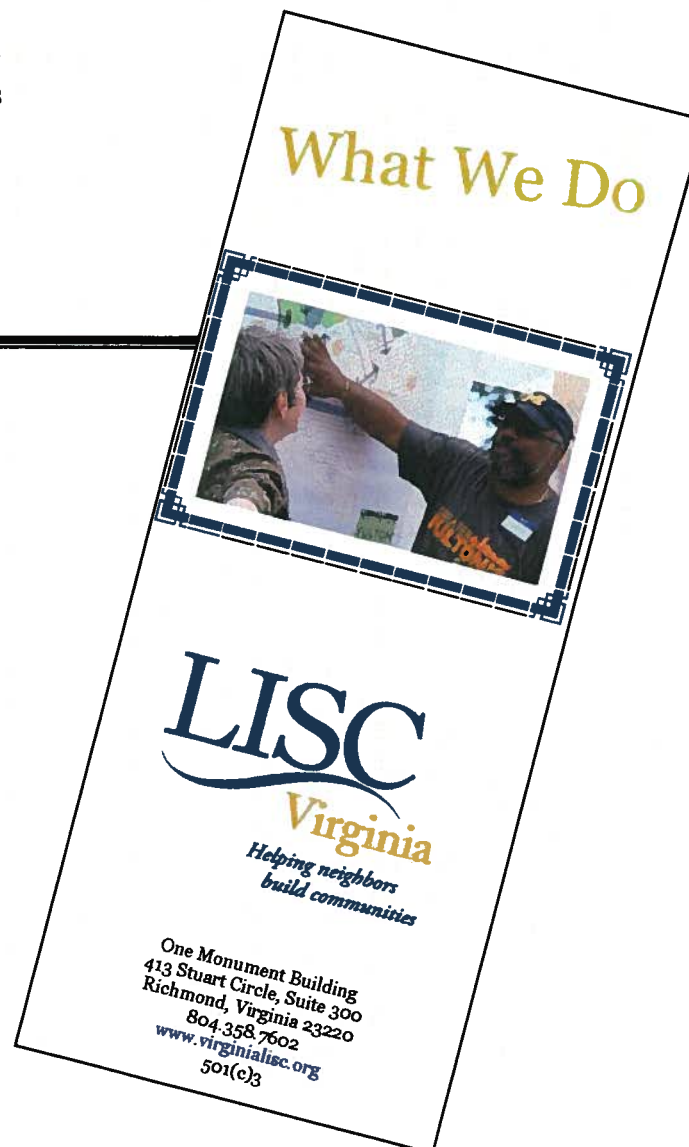
Working with the City of Richmond, Virginia LISC is interested in retaining a consultant to prepare a zoning plan for Fulton Hill—known by the neighborhood as Greater Fulton's—neighborhood commercial corridor. For further information on the RFP visit:

[www.virginialisc.org/pdf/FultonHillRFP.pdf](http://www.virginialisc.org/pdf/FultonHillRFP.pdf)

- **Brookland Park Boulevard Commercial Corridor Market Analysis RFP**

Working with the City of Richmond, Virginia LISC is interested retaining a qualified consultant to prepare a Commercial Revitalization Plan for Brookland Park Boulevard. For further information on the RFP visit:

<http://www.virginialisc.org/pdf/BrooklandParkwayRFP.pdf>



## Reducing Vacant and Blighted Buildings

In the spring of 2010, LISC was mapping vacant properties in the Highland Park area and had an idea for partnering with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and the Partnership for Housing Affordability. The idea turned into the forum *Turning Around Vacant Property in Richmond* held in August 2010. This year's Virginia General Assembly has bills in both the House and Senate on *Derelict and Blighted Buildings*.

House Bill 491 and Senate Bill 122 are sponsored by Delegate Rosalyn Dance, Delegate Daniel Marshall (House) and Senator John Watkins (Senate). Patrons also include Delegates Betsy Carr, Jennifer McClellan, Delores McQuinn and Joseph Morrissey. These two bills, *Derelict and Blighted Buildings*, authorize local governments to serve as a receiver. The local government would be appointed by the circuit court to repair the blighted or derelict building. The owner retains ownership and the local government places a lien on the property for the costs of repairs.

**Vacant building receivership** is a building code enforcement tool that enables a locality to eliminate eyesores in a community. As of



January 26, 2012, the House has passed its bill, and the Senate has sent its bill to the committee on Local Government. To follow the bills: [leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?121+cab+HC10112HB0491+BREF](http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?121+cab+HC10112HB0491+BREF)

At the Turning Around Vacant Property in Richmond Forum, Dr. James Kelly, noted expert on receivership, presented several receivership options for localities. To learn more, visit: [www.richmondfed.org/conferences\\_and\\_events/community\\_development/2010/vacant\\_property\\_20100820.cfm](http://www.richmondfed.org/conferences_and_events/community_development/2010/vacant_property_20100820.cfm) or [papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=1273735](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1273735).

# Thank You

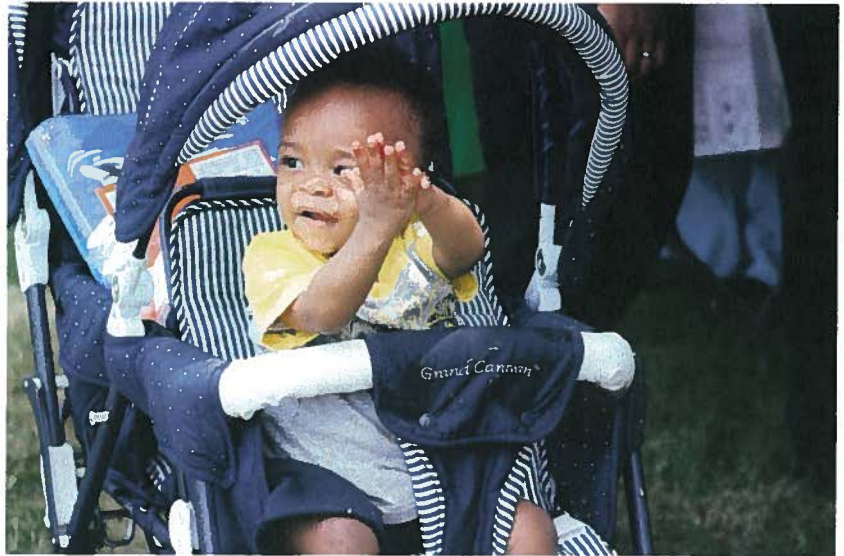
For the recent support of our *Neighborhoods Rising Initiatives* in the Battersea neighborhood of Petersburg and the Greater Fulton neighborhood of Richmond:

**Bon Secours**

**Cameron Foundation**

**Performance Foods**

**The Robins Foundation**



For his years of service on *LISC's Local Advisory Committee* and *Congratulations* on his retirement from Chesterfield County:

**Tom Jacobson**



## Local Advisory Committee

**Chair :** Michael Mulvihill, *President*  
CRT/Tanaka

**Vice Chair:** Susan Dewey, *Executive Director*  
VHDA

**Ryan Ammann,** *Community Development Specialist*  
BB&T of VA

**John Benesole,** *Enterprise Chief Architect*  
Capital One Bank

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**Regina Chaney,** *Housing Education Specialist*  
H.O.M.E., Inc.

**M. Maxine Cholmondeley,** *Interim Director*  
RRHA

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**Dougal Hewitt,** *Senior Vice President*  
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**Laura Lafayette,** *CEO*  
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**Penny J. McPherson,** *VP & Senior CDO*  
Wells Fargo

**Brent Smith,** *Associate Professor*  
VCU

**S. Mark Strickler,** *Director of Community Revitalization*  
Henrico County

**William Talley,** *Treasurer*  
William H. Talley & Son, Inc.

**Harry Turton,** *Regional President*  
Union First Market Bank