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340 SIXTH STREET, CALUMET, MICHIGAN 49913  
PHONE (906) 337-1713 . FAX (906) 337-5964 . EMAIL: [manager@villageofcalumet.com](mailto:manager@villageofcalumet.com)  
CALEB C. D. KATZ, MANAGER

## The Village of Calumet to Launch Blight Enforcement Campaign to Improve Community Appearance and Economic Health

*Enforcement of Village ordinances to begin in with compliance information for property owners*

Calumet, MI, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - Many communities across Michigan and the United States struggle with the adverse effects of blight. While the definition changes across regions, the results of blight are the same: decreased property values, negative impacts on redevelopment activities and loss of community pride. While blight enforcement is a difficult issue to address due to its personal nature, its tremendous impact on the overall economic health of a community has made it a priority for the Village of Calumet.

“The Village of Calumet Board of Trustees has resolved to address the issue of blight in the Village of Calumet starting this fall”, said Village Manager, Caleb Katz. “They’ve made it clear that this is their number one priority for 2020 and I’m looking forward to helping the process move forward”, Katz said.

In 2019, the Village of Calumet contracted Kendricks, Bordeau, Keefe, Seavoy & Larsen, a law firm specializing in municipal law, to update the Village’s ordinances regarding blight and dangerous buildings and to provide guidance on instituting an enforcement process. As a result, the Village of Calumet’s ordinances now comply with State statutes and are fully enforceable.

Based on the recommendations of the firm, the Village of Calumet has also adopted a Municipal Civil Infractions Bureau ordinance which allows for greater local control. This ordinance provides for fines to be paid directly to the Village and gives the Village the opportunity to work with property owners to remedy the situation.

Up to this point, the Village has focused its efforts on the most dangerous situations, but starting in spring 2020, blight enforcement will be initiated Village-wide. “We aren’t trying to punish anyone in particular, we are trying to provide complete enforcement of the ordinance, we just want to see Calumet cleaned up and better maintained,” notes Village Trustee, Nathan Anderson. The Village is happy to work with property owners to resolve issues and has developed tools to help residents and commercial property owners achieve compliance.

The Village hopes to use innovative techniques in GIS mapping, made available to them by Land Grid Technologies which may involve the use of a mobile app that allows on-the-spot property survey and time-stamped photography to document blight issues. This information would be confidential but would be instantly documented and easily available for future use.



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Village enforcement efforts next spring will begin with generalized informational letters, reminding property owners what the laws are and what they can expect if they do not comply. Property owners are encouraged to visit [www.villageofcalumet.com](http://www.villageofcalumet.com) to learn more.

#### About Calumet

The Village of Calumet is a small community located in the heart of the Keweenaw Peninsula and is the seat of the Keweenaw National Historical Park. Visitors and residents enjoy Calumet's small town feel, beautiful architecture and unique history.

#### Contact

For more information regarding this press release contact Village Manager, Caleb Katz, (906)337-1713 or email [manager@villageofcalumet.com](mailto:manager@villageofcalumet.com).



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