

We would not be here, our neighborhoods would not *need* to be re-vitalized, if the city would simply meet its responsibility to the community instead of serving the landlords who abuse neighborhoods, exploit tenants, and degrade our housing stock.

The problems plaguing neighborhoods are not mysterious problems in need of creative solutions yet to be imagined. The necessary regulatory framework has been gathering dust, largely ignored. If the city would enforce lot coverage limits, follow permit rules, stop sidewalk encroachment, respect the no-more-than-four group quarters provision, and take lead paint laws seriously our blighted neighborhoods would be transformed rapidly and our water quality as well as our quality of life would be dramatically improved.

Our own city attorneys have signed off on deals to turn backyards into parking lots — ignoring lot coverage limits — and to turn single family houses into duplexes — ignoring the rules for duplex conversion: all in the service of landlord profits and to the grave detriment of neighborhoods. Right now we have the city's lawyer contradicting the DRB which followed the law and denied a fifth resident exception because the house was not 2700 square feet or more. The city's attorney is agreeing with the landlord's attorney that the attic space can be used in the calculation because the attic is *not* an attic after all.

Bottom line: our tax dollars pay city lawyers to damage our neighborhoods. Until that changes, until city resources serve neighborhoods and residents, any city pledge to revitalize neighborhoods is a sham.