The William Whyte Residents association is a volenteer organization of people in the William Whyte area.

The boundaries are:

Selkirk avenue (north side) to Redwood (south side)

Arlington Street (east side) to Main Street (west side).

The WWRA is dedicated to creating a safe, healthy + vibrant community for everyone who visits, lives in or works in the area. We want to build:

- a safe area for people, property + the enviroment
- Clean attractive streets, properties, parks + gardens
- Quality housing + buildings
- Recreation + leisure activities particularly for youth.

In coming here today we would like to say that the WWRA strongly supports the Proposal to regulate

the condition + maintenance of all vacant buildings.

In accordance with the William Whyte Neighbourhood Housing plan 30 specific initiatives were identified. Of those initiatives the three that were seen as the most important include.

- a campaign aimed at vacant + boarded up housing units including setting time limits for boarded up units + transferring such units to active housing groups.
- Enforcement of health, safety + fire by-laws +
- a resident monitoring committee re: violations.

In Feb of 2002 with the passage of the Vacant Dwellings By-Law no 7983/2002 residents of our community finally started to feel that the issue's of boarded up & vacant properties were being addressed

Having been a member of the WWRA from the beginning (3 years ago) I can tell you first hand the magnitude of this problem in our area. Others in our group, as well as myself have literally walked up & down every street & up to every property in the neighbourhood (while delivering our monthly flyers). You get a real ~~[illegible]~~ good look at some of these disasters that plague our neighborhood The # of private properties, rental units & commercial properties that have either been left abandoned or boarded up is unbelievable & how many have been sitting like this for as long as 20 years!

- Walking down Selkirk ave. can be a heartwrenching experience. Buildings that owners have failed to maintain + are a complete eyesore line the street.
- Property owners both residential + commercial need to be made accountable for their properties.
- Many of the owners don't live in our neighbourhood + don't have to look at this mess - day in + day out.
- These properties are a hazard to public safety + serve as a target for unauthorized use + criminal activity.
- For a neighbourhood that is supposed to be in the process of revitalization we need these types of bylaws to move forward.

• The image of our area will never change unless we take steps to make the changes happen.

In conclusion, the WWRA applauds the city's effort ~~in helping~~ to reduce these unsightly properties & help foster a safe neighbourhood for the residents of ~~our community~~. The proposed bylaw will in turn help perpetuate renewal of the neighbourhood in which we live. It's been a long time coming.

William Wyte