1   **..Title**
2   **Municipal Regulation, Taxation and Disposition of Vacant and Blighted Buildings -** For the
3   purpose of respectfully requesting that the Maryland General Assembly amend the Local
4   Government and the Tax – Property Articles of the Annotated Code of Maryland to authorize
5   municipalities organized under Article XI-E of the Maryland Constitution, including Annapolis,
6   to address public health and safety issues associated with vacant and blighted buildings.
7   **..Body**

8   **CITY COUNCIL OF THE**
9   **City of Annapolis**

10

11   **Resolution 29-15**

12

13   **Introduced by: Mayor Pantelides**

14

15   **Referred to**

16

17   **A RESOLUTION** concerning

18

19   **Municipal Regulation, Taxation and Disposition of Vacant and Blighted Buildings**

20

21   **FOR**   the purpose of respectfully requesting that the Maryland General Assembly amend the
22   Local Government and the Tax – Property Articles of the Annotated Code of Maryland to
23   authorize municipalities organized under Article XI-E of the Maryland Constitution,
24   including Annapolis, to address public health and safety issues associated with vacant
25   and blighted buildings.

26

27   **WHEREAS,**   the Code of the City of Annapolis currently provides limited options to deal
28   with nuisances associated with vacant properties that are ineffective generally in
29   motivating the property owner to take timely action to prevent further waste of
30   such property; and

31

32   **WHEREAS,**   the Code of the City of Annapolis currently provides a single remedy in cases
33   where the owner of a blighted property unfit for human habitation refuses to
34   undertake and complete repairs necessary to correct the conditions that present a
35   hazard to public health and safety; and

36

37   **WHEREAS,**   the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland does not
38   currently empower municipalities to establish and maintain a registry of vacant
39   and blighted buildings, nor to establish misdemeanor status or civil penalties
40   associated with the failure to register a vacant or blighted building; and

41

42   **WHEREAS,**   the Tax – Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland does not
43   currently empower municipalities to establish and maintain special tax rates
44   applicable to vacant and blighted buildings at rates greater than would apply to
45   buildings that were not vacant or blighted; and

46

1 **WHEREAS,** the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland does not
2 currently empower municipalities to establish and maintain a special purpose
3 fund comprising a Remediation Fund specially designated to administer
4 facilitated registration, inspection, and remediation programs; and
5
6 **WHEREAS,** the Mayor and Alderpersons of the City of Annapolis desire to establish more
7 effective means to minimize public health and safety issues associated with
8 vacant and blighted buildings and have recommended that the City of Annapolis
9 seek amendment of the Annotated Code of Maryland to address public health
10 and safety issues associated with vacant and blighted buildings.
11
12
13 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the
14 City of Annapolis respectfully requests that the Maryland General Assembly empower
15 municipalities to establish a registry of vacant and blighted buildings and associated sanctions,
16 and establish and maintain special tax rates applicable to vacant and blighted buildings.
17
18 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the
19 City Clerk shall send a copy of this Resolution to the Maryland Governor, the Speaker of the
20 House of Delegates, the President of the Senate and the Maryland Municipal League.
21
22
23 **EXPLANATION**
24 CAPITAL LETTERS indicate matter added to existing law.
25 ~~Strikethrough~~ indicates matter stricken from existing law.
26 <u>Underlining</u> indicates amendments.