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**City of Duluth Communications Office**

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**DATE: 12/23/2013**

**SUBJECT: Efforts Underway To Remove Blighted Properties in Duluth**

**BY: Pakou Ly, Public Information Coordinator**

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## **Efforts Underway To Remove Blighted Properties in Duluth**

[Duluth, MN] - After announcing a partnership agreement with the City of Duluth in September, Vonco V has begun the process of demolishing at least thirteen blighted properties throughout the City. City Administration and the Duluth City Council approved the initial thirteen properties based on a number of factors including how long the properties have sat vacant, number of police calls and other complaints, and the location of the properties.

The first property, 4109 Grand Ave, was successfully demolished last week. Two more long-time blighted properties are schedule to be torn down this week. Crews will be working at 3215 Elm Street today.

“Removing these blighted properties from our community has huge benefit. These eye sores have been holding the community back for years, bringing down property values,” said Mayor Don Ness. “This will also help make room for much needed workforce housing, in cleaner and more attractive neighborhoods.”

The City and Vonco V have teamed up with Habitat for Humanity and Northshore Architectural Antiques to salvage items from these buildings which will be used to benefit the community through donations and resale.

### **For additional information, please contact:**

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