



Date: August 10, 2004
To: The Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
From: Bonnie Lowenthal, Councilmember, First District *BL*
Subject: **FENCING OF VACANT LOTS**

In our City, for various reasons, abandoned residential structures are demolished which often leaves a vacant lot, presenting an open invitation for dumping, trespassing, and other criminal activity. Vacant sites throughout the City are being overwhelmed with trash dumped by individuals unwilling to shoulder the responsibility for legal disposal. A possible solution to this problem is to require a property owner, once a residential structure has been demolished, to construct a fence around the property. Fenced vacant lots discourage dumping and other criminal activities.

Recommendation

I respectfully request that the City Council refer this matter to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee for discussion and report from the Department of Planning and Building regarding requiring property owners to enclose vacant properties with a fence.

I thank you for your consideration of this request. I hope my colleagues will support moving this action forward.