

**HELP OGDEN CITY CONTINUE TO REVITALIZE NEIGHBORHOODS
AND INCREASE SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSING SUPPLY
BY OPPOSING REFERENDUM PETITION RELATING TO RESOLUTION 2023-7**

What City action is being referred?

On December 13, 2022, the City Council adopted a resolution declaring the city's intent to purchase surplus property from Ogden School District including a 6.55-acre parcel at 605 North Jackson Avenue. That council decision is not affected by the referendum; rather the referendum applies only to the source of funds identified to purchase the surplus property. Specifically, on March 7, 2023, the Council unanimously passed Resolution 2023-7 allowing use of Quality Neighborhoods Initiative funds to purchase 605 North Jackson Avenue for appraised value. On March 13, 2023, five residents filed an application to refer Resolution 2023-7 to the voters to determine whether Quality Neighborhoods Initiative funds may be used to acquire the property.

What Are Quality Neighborhoods Initiative funds?

Quality Neighborhoods Initiative funds have been appropriated annually by the City Council since 2015. The funds are used to create quality single-family housing developments that stabilize and revitalize Ogden's older neighborhoods by increasing home ownership and the desirability of these neighborhoods. Without city investment in this type of development, it is possible that properties would remain vacant, blighted, or be developed into multi-family rental units.

Why are Quality Neighborhoods Initiative funds being earmarked for 605 North Jackson?

The property at 605 North Jackson is a part of the Mount Lewis community, an older neighborhood facing challenges related to neglect and deterioration. The area is an ideal location for investment of Quality Neighborhoods Initiative funds because the size and location of the property will allow the city to achieve the goals of the Quality Neighborhoods Initiative by adding several new single-family homes to the neighborhood that will be built to a high standard, with significant attention given to quality and architectural design. The development will provide new homes for moderate income families at affordable market rates.

Will this project increase taxes or debt?

No. The City Council has already appropriated sufficient funding to the Quality Neighborhoods Initiative fund for this project. All appropriations to the Quality Neighborhoods Initiative fund come from non-tax sources like BDO lease revenue.

Has the city invested in similar neighborhood revitalization projects?

Recently, the city completed the Stone Hill development located on 22nd Street and Porter and the Oak Den Bungalow homes located at 24th Street and Fowler. The addition of these new homes to the neighborhoods has not only spurred an increase in property values, private investment, and substantial improvements to surrounding properties, but also a decrease in residential turnover.

What would happen if the resolution were repealed by referendum?

If Resolution 2023-7 were repealed, the city would need to appropriate other funds to buy the property. If no other funds were available, the city would be unable to purchase the property or build quality single family homes there. The surplus school property may then be sold on the open market and developed in the best interests of the buyer.