

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Report Reveals Extent of NYC Vacant Property**

*“Banking On Vacancy: Homelessness and Real Estate Speculation,” documents findings from citywide survey conducted by Picture the Homeless & Hunter College.*

**New York, NY.**—On Thursday, January 26th, Picture the Homeless (PTH) and Hunter College’s Center for Community Planning & Development (HCCCPD) will release findings from a count of vacant buildings and lots in 20 of NYC's 59 community boards.

“There are way too many homeless people living in horrible conditions to allow slumlords and banks to keep these places empty,” said PTH member Bernard Anderson.

In 2011, PTH mobilized 295 volunteers throughout the five boroughs to identify vacant buildings and lots in communities hardest hit by gentrification and homelessness and partnered with HCCCPD staff to analyze survey results.

“This important study demonstrates that New York City can house every family if developers and the city work together to rehabilitate these vacant buildings and lots,” said New York City Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito.

The report, “Banking on Vacancy: Homelessness and Real Estate Speculation,” is the latest development in a six-year campaign to document vacant properties that inflate the cost of housing in NYC and are a root cause of homelessness.

**What:** Report Release: *Banking On Vacancy: Homelessness and Real Estate Speculation*

**When:** Thursday, January 26th, 2012 from 2:30PM to 4PM

**Where:** Roosevelt House, Hunter College  
47-49 East 65th Street, Manhattan

**Speakers:** Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President  
Annabel Palma, New York City Council Member  
Jumaane Williams, New York City Council Member  
Kendall Jackman, PTH Housing Campaign Leader  
Tom Angotti, Center for Community Planning & Development  
Adrian Antonio Paling, PTH Housing Organizer  
Owen Rogers, Arvernetta Henry, Joseph Midgely, Genghis Khalid  
Muhammad, PTH Members and William S. Burnett, PTH Board Member

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*Homeless activists & other speakers will be available for interview on-site.*

*PTH will be tweeting updates and livestreaming from the report release for those who can't make it to the event, but want to watch. We will also release the report online that afternoon, at: [picturethehomeless.org/blog/vacancy](http://picturethehomeless.org/blog/vacancy).*

Follow <http://twitter.com/pthny> and hashtag #NYCvacancysurvey and watch us live at: <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/banking-on-vacancy>.

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