

**Memorandum
Community & Economic Development Department**



To: Thomas E. Thomas, City Manager
Subject: Disposition of City Property at 612 8th Street
Date: July 22, 2014

Staff has been contacted by Dytanya Robinson and sister Sabrina Ivy-Harris regarding the purchase of a small vacant lot located to the north of their property at 614 8th Street. According to the file, the 24.1' x 115' vacant parcel was purchased by the city at the 2010 County Tax Auction for \$642.50.

Ms. Robinson and Ms. Ivy-Harris would like to purchase the vacant parcel to create a small garden and further develop a safe area for their children to play. According to the provided letter, they have maintained this property for several years. Please refer to the provided location map and letter of request from Ms. Robinson.

City property disposition policies state a letter must be sent to the property owner located on the opposite side of the city parcel to see if there is any interest in the property. The adjacent property owner to the north was contacted and expressed no interest in the vacant lot.

Staff recommends the disposition of this lot as it will return an unbuildable parcel to active use and to the tax rolls. Ms. Robinson and Ms. Ivy-Harris are prepared to cover all of the involved closing costs associated with acquiring the property estimated at \$800.00.

Recommendation

The CED Department recommends that City Council approve the disposition of the city property at 612 8th Street to the adjacent property owners based on the above conditions, authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents and refer to the City Attorney for and ordinance.

Submitted by: Mary Chappell, Development Programs Manager
Jeffery A. Eder, Assistant City Manager / CED Director

Approved: Thomas Thomas, City Manager

LOCATION MAP

LOCATION MAP

612 8th Street and
614 8th Street

Legend

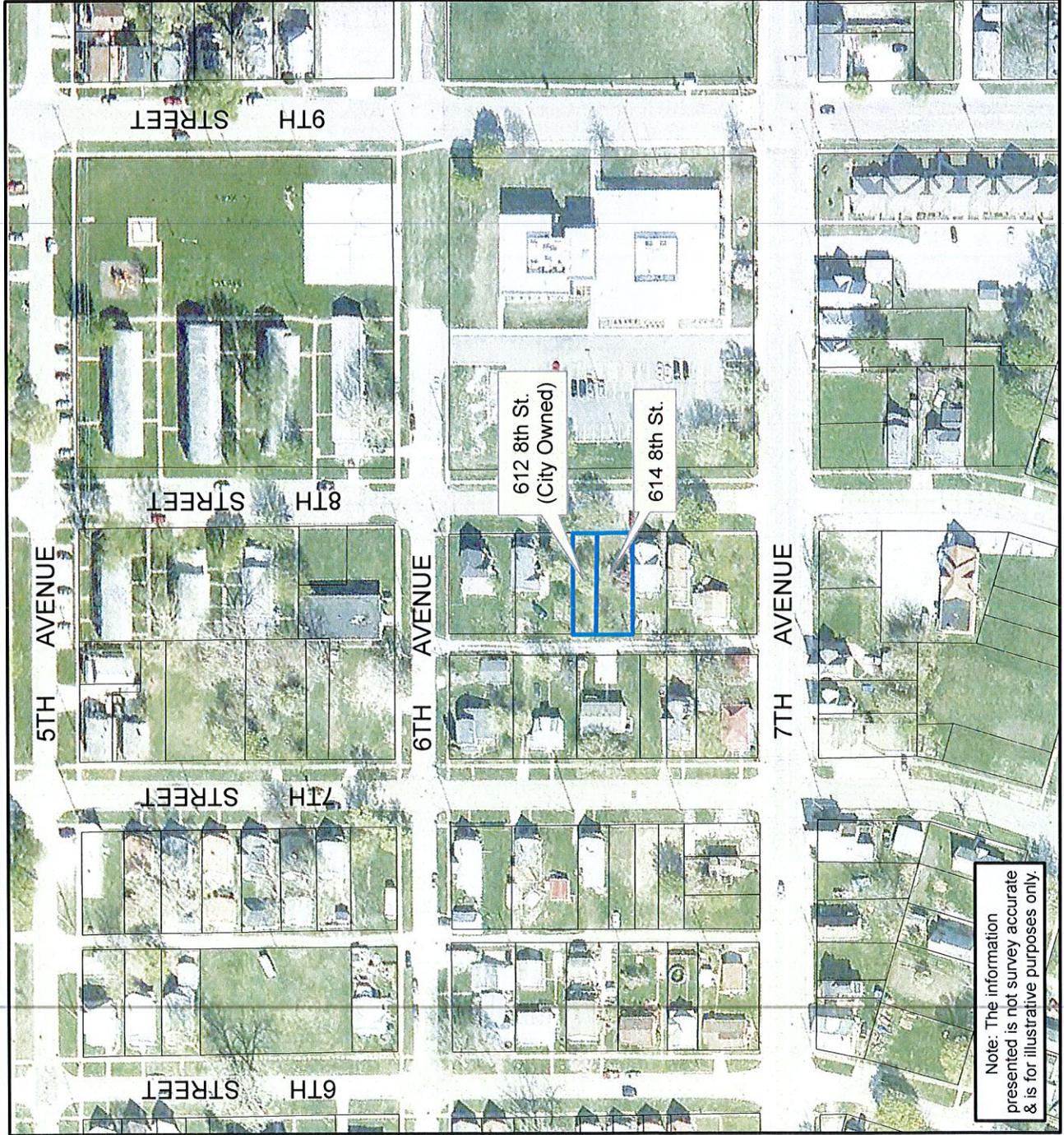
-  Subject Properties
-  Parcels



0 2550 100 150 200
Feet

City of Rock Island

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Planning and Redevelopment



Note: The information presented is not survey accurate & is for illustrative purposes only

Rock Island City Council Members

I, Dytanya Robinson, am respectfully requesting permission to obtain ownership/ purchase the lot located at 612 8th st. Rock Island Il. I learned that the City of Rock Island purchased the lot which is approximately 24.1 ft wide and approximately 115 ft long in December of 2010. This property is next to a property/lot that I currently own (614 8th st) with my sister Sabrina Harris. Sabrina Harris is also the owner of 618 8th st.

For years we have maintained the maintenance on both lots. We have cut grass, chased away snakes and rodents, cleaned bags of garbage dumped by neighbors, removed old mattresses and car tires as well as tree limbs and various other forms of debris. These properties had become dumping grounds for anyone who wished to dump there.

Our interest in maintaining the property and keeping it clean is simple; our children have played on these lots for years. With the properties being right next door to Sabrina's home, it was convenient and safe to allow our children to play in a safe location in full view of an adult who can just sit on the porch and watch.

In October of 2013 myself and Sabrina acquired 614 8th st in the auction for the purpose of securing the property for the continued use aforementioned, we thought that the property that we had acquired was the entire fenced in area that we had been maintaining, only to learn that a small portion was an additional parcel with an address of 612 8th st.

Our plans for the property is to make a small garden in the rear, plant a few fruit trees, and continue to allow our children to enjoy the property as they had for years.

It is very difficult to prevent others from dumping or entering upon the property without having some form of claim on the property or ownership.

Myself and Ms. Harris fully intend to reimburse the City of Rock Island in the amount of \$642.50, which is the amount that they purchased the property for. If there are additional costs, we will be happy to reimburse those costs as well.

We have already begun the cleaning and maintenance on the lot. It was exceptionally bad this year but we have managed to clear it of all waste, tires, garbage bags, tree limbs, leaves etc. You can actually see the yard from front to back. It has taken a great deal of time and effort from our family but it is important that our children have a clean and safe place close to home to play and enjoy as we have for many years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,


Dytanya Robinson

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