

Ready to end blight

I was proud to stand with Faith In Community, local clergy, Fresno Building Healthy Communities, fellow Fresno State students and hundreds of other residents to push for an ordinance that will begin to put an end to blight. The new law will make sure property owners don't use plywood to secure vacant houses, and calls for the city to hire four new employees to serve on the code enforcement team to keep negligent landlords in line. Lastly, the new law will require that the city keep a registry of vacant properties. If landlords don't comply with the new rules, they will be fined.

Great work, but it's only the beginning. On May 14, we need the City Council to formally adopt this new ordinance into law and, in June, approve the mayor's requested budget for additional code enforcement officers, so that the new "Blight Team" can enforce the law.

We will continue to keep a close eye on enforcement procedures, while we work to improve living conditions for the hundreds of Fresno residents who still live in horrible and unhealthy environments because problem landlords refuse to take action. We're ready for the next step.

Alexandra Alvarado

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