

## **Living In the City**

By Jammal McRae II

I live in the city of Cleveland and Cleveland which has a large population. A big city like Cleveland has its' problems. I live on a 129th off Union Avenue. A prominent problem in the city of Cleveland is the abandoned houses and buildings in the neighborhoods. I live next to an abandoned house, and it is an inconvenience. It also just makes the city look bad. There is a lot of crime that goes on in those houses, from the selling and using of drugs to storing stolen goods, to even drastic and truly scary things like rape and murder. The abandoned house next to mine is run down. There is wood covering the windows, broken glass, and I'm pretty sure animals have turned it into their home. The backyard is even worse, from the weeds to the overgrown tree branches, garbage that is in the yard, and animals such as raccoons and opossums have made the yard their home as well. We have to constantly cut the tree branches so they won't come into our yard. Across the street from me is an abandoned school, Alexander Hamilton's old school building. That is definitely not a sight to see! There is so much garbage around that school. There is broken glass all in the parking lot, garbage pieces from the building, the grass around the school has over grown, and the gates and the metal foundation in the school has rusted. People have also stolen from that building. Old desks, textbooks, and any type of metal to scrap. I remember waking up in the middle of the night hearing people pushing shopping carts, (stolen shopping carts), full of stolen goods from that school. The damage around that school is ridiculous and someone can and will get hurt if they're around that building. My solution is simple to this problem, refurbish the buildings and houses and keep up with the up keep of the buildings in the city. I know I'm no business man or architect but I'm pretty sure it's easier to fix up an old house then to tear it down and build a new one in its place. You can still develop old houses into new houses and I'm sure people will still buy them. They could still do the same thing with old schools, instead of just closing old schools down you can fix and open up the schools. It would save a lot of time and money and it would help create more jobs for teachers and better schools for students. I'm not sure why the higher ups in Cleveland haven't thought about doing this but hey, maybe they know something I don't know.

I personally feel that each abandoned building makes the city look horrible. It makes it look like we don't care about the way we live, that we don't care about living in trash or filth. The people of Cleveland deserve better! We do not deserve to live like that. Maybe as a community we need to step up, start cleaning out those houses and buildings ourselves. It makes people not want to move to Cleveland, the dirty houses and the empty buildings while in actuality we have a strong sense of community in Cleveland. Every morning to wake up to a broken down house next door, it gets depressing, it gets tiresome, and I just wonder why hasn't anybody done anything about it. I know I'm not the only person in Cleveland that feels like this, I know people have spoke out to get this problem fixed, maybe I should try to be one of them too.

There are a lot of problems in my city. There are a lot of different ways you can fix this problem and many other ones too. I'm not sure why the political people in Cleveland haven't done anything yet. I would like to see the pride put back into the city of Cleveland. Clean up our neighborhoods, refurbish abandoned houses, and turn old buildings into businesses. Cleveland was once the place to be. With politicians and a community who cares, I know we can put our city back together again.