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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hartford Land Bank Announces Interim Executive Director

Current Executive Director Laura Settlemyer Leaving to Practice Law in New Orleans

HARTFORD CT [January 12, 2021] – Hartford Land Bank, Inc. is pleased to announce that Carey Shea, a nationally-known and highly regarded community development expert, will lead the organization as Interim Executive Director, effective February 1, 2021. The land bank’s current Executive Director, Laura Settlemyer, is leaving to pursue another opportunity out of state.

“We are very pleased that Carey has agreed to step into this role,” said Melvyn Colón, Board Chair. “Her thirty-plus years of experience in community investment and directing multi-million-dollar housing revitalization programs in New York City and post-Katrina New Orleans will be valuable during this transition period as we search for a new executive director and begin rehabilitation of our newly-acquired properties.”

Ms. Shea is considered a pioneer of the New York City urban homesteading program and has spearheaded programs for the Rockefeller Foundation, Home by Hand, and one of the largest Habitat for Humanity affiliates in the U.S. Ms. Shea serves on the board of Center for Community Progress, the only national nonprofit specifically dedicated to building a future in which vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties no longer exist, and Ms. Shea is a leader in the national effort to pass the National Homes Investment Act (NHIA). Locally, she is a Founder of the Friends of Zion Hill Cemetery and serves as an Alternate Commissioner on the Hartford Historic Properties & Preservation Commissions. She resides in the Frog Hollow neighborhood of Hartford and serves on the board of the Frog Hollow NRZ and Hartford NEXT. Ms. Shea has also previously served on the Resource Development and Real Estate Committees of the Hartford Land Bank’s Board of Directors.

Ms. Settlemyer, a nationally acclaimed expert on reclaiming vacant, abandoned, deteriorating, and foreclosed properties, was named Executive Director in February 2020 after a nationwide search. During her tenure, Hartford Land Bank acquired seven vacant and abandoned properties from the City of Hartford and secured \$5 million in funding from the State of Connecticut. Previously, she was the City of Hartford’s Director of Blight Remediation and Housing Code Enforcement and the founding Chairperson of the Hartford Land Bank. In that role, Ms. Settlemyer led the effort to obtain the land bank’s 501(c)(3) nonprofit designation, secured a \$175,000 grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and led the passage of land bank and receivership legislation at the state level.

The Hartford Land Bank Board of Directors is in the process of finalizing the search criteria and selection process for a new, permanent Executive Director. A formal announcement of the opening is expected later this winter.

About Hartford Land Bank:

The Hartford Land Bank identifies and acquires vacant, abandoned, tax-delinquent and/or distressed properties in the City of Hartford, Connecticut, to facilitate their rehabilitation and return to productive community assets. Hartford Land Bank, Inc. is a non-profit corporation. For more information, visit hartfordlandbank.org.

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