

Fall 2009 New Metropolis Lecture Series @ Virginia Tech

Fixing Broken Cities

John Kromer

Senior Consultant, Fels Institute of Government, University of Pennsylvania

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

7 pm to 9 pm

Virginia Tech's Alexandria Center

1001 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

West Room, 1st floor

The lecture is free and open to the public and there is no need to register.

We serve wine, beer, crackers, and cheese.

About the presentation:

John Kromer will talk about his new book, *Fixing Broken Cities: The Implementation of Urban Development Strategies*, which discusses the planning, execution, and impact of various community and economic development strategies designed to improve urban downtowns and neighborhoods. In light of today's foreclosure crisis and economic downturn no community is immune from the impacts of distressed neighborhoods and blight.

Many good ideas for remaking and redefining older cities have been proposed over the years, yet local leaders in distressed urban areas continue to struggle over where to begin. Each chapter of *Fixing Broken Cities* addresses a major concern, such as enlivening the downtown area, stabilizing and strengthening neighborhoods, eliminating industrial-age blight, and providing quality public education options. The central focus of Kromer's book and talk is how practitioners and policymakers can implement and achieve transformative change in such environments.

John Kromer specializes in the design and implementation of reinvestment strategies for distressed urban communities, working as a consultant to governments, institutions, businesses, and nonprofit organizations. He has worked since 2001 as a Senior Consultant at the University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government, where he has completed strategic investment plans to address vacant and deteriorated property conditions in the cities of Allentown, Reading, and York, Pennsylvania and authored reports on Philadelphia's ten-year real estate tax abatement program and on the University of Pennsylvania's West Philadelphia investment program. Prior to this, he served as the Philadelphia's Director of Housing from 1992 to 2001.

For more information, please contact:

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Podcasted!