



Tax abatements would fight blight in Harrisburg

Published: Sunday, June 27, 2010, 12:22 PM Updated: Sunday, June 27, 2010, 12:45 PM



Patriot-News Op-Ed

by Ganesh Harinath

It doesn't take a genius to tell you Harrisburg is facing real financial trouble.

During the last two public City Council hearings, some argued the city should file for bankruptcy while others claim it must sell its few profitable assets. Unfortunately, there is no magic bullet.



An empty building sits on the 1400 block of Regina Street in Harrisburg last June. Blight ruins the value of the entire neighborhood. CHRISTINE BAKER, The Patriot-News

Instead, we must look to a variety of measures to use the assets we have to create revenue.

Harrisburg has an excess of supply: underutilized real estate. When property sits blighted and condemned, with buildings falling down, there are clearly more buildings than are needed. Otherwise, why are these buildings not maintained or legally occupied?

