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REAL ESTATE BETWEEN THE BRICKS

More than 500 buildings across NYC are likely vacant

By Lois Weiss

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A title company has used open data to map more than 500 buildings across NYC that are likely vacant.

Daniel Price, founder and CEO of OneTitle National Guaranty Company, analyzed 40,000 calls to NYC's 311 line over the last six years and matched them with other data to identify 541 properties in 137 zip codes that could become targets for developers as well as for nonprofits and affordable housing.

"These are hiding in plain sight," Price says. Although these are buildings and not vacant parcels, the locations could be triaged as potential off-market acquisition opportunities.

"Vacant Buildings, Development Opportunities: Even in NYC's Priciest Areas" found Brooklyn and Queens each have 155 such properties, with 110 in The Bronx, 63 in Manhattan and 58 in Staten Island.

Many of these buildings are in the high-rent-burdened neighborhoods where the Citizens Budget Commission believes there is a need for more affordable housing.

OneTitle used the 311 calls made over six years but only included properties where a complaint was made within the last 12 months.

Price believes the data can lead to crowd-sourced solutions useful to corporations, municipalities and the public.

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