



KEEPING YOUR VACANT PROPERTY SAFE FROM SQUATTERS



BEFORE



AFTER

- **Maintain the property.** Empty and neglected properties are prime targets for squatters. Make sure bushes are trimmed, the lawn is mowed and the blinds are partially closed. If you are keeping the power on, put several lights on timers;
- **Obtain a boarding permit from the Planning Department and board property if necessary;**
- **On a weekly basis, check on the property yourself or hire a property manager;**
- **Talk to the neighbors and enlist their help in keeping an eye on the property. Encourage them to call you if they see someone “moving in” and to call the police if they see someone breaking in;**
- **Post “No Trespassing” signs with a contact number;**
- **Consider turning off the utilities or transferring the utilities to your name. A property without operable water or electricity can be “red tagged” by City personnel and any occupants can be compelled to leave.**
- **No house shall remain vacant for more than one year without submitting plans to the Planning Department.**

**For information contact the City of Richmond
Code Enforcement Unit at 510-621-1279.**