

City of Providence

Community Conversation Agenda

The City of Providence, Department of Planning and Development, Division of Community Development is asking for the community's input about priorities for housing and community development needs throughout the city. This information will be gathered and used to shape future spending and project priorities and to update the City's Consolidated Plan – which guides the city's spending on housing and community development.

- 6:30 – Check In
- 6:40 – Welcoming Remarks
- 6:50 – Program Overview
 - What is Community Development Block Grant?
 - What can CDBG be used for?
- 7:00 – What We've Heard
 - Information from Previous Meetings
 - Community Assets
 - Previous Investments
- 7:15 – Breakout Discussion
 - Are we on the right track?
 - What are we missing?
 - What should our priorities be?
 - What do you want to see in your neighborhood?
- 8:00 – Wrap Up & Review

Please complete the following survey and return to City staff person or leave in the survey box.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

What are the most important issues of concern or priority needs in your community? **Circle Three**

Affordable Housing

Homelessness

Parks / Sports / Recreation

Senior Services

Poverty

Jobs / Economic Development

Public Housing

Public Safety

Low-Quality / Unsafe / Unhealthy Housing

Drug or Alcohol Addiction

Education

Housing and Services for Persons with HIV/AIDS

Social Services for Adults and Children

Accessibility for Those with Disabilities

Other: _____

How can the City better respond to and address your community concerns?

Additional Comments:

Community Conversation

April 6th, 2015

The DaVinci Center



City of Providence

Dept. of Planning & Development

Division of Community Development

Brian Hull, Director of Community Development

Agenda

- 6:30 – Check In
- 6:40 – Welcoming Remarks
- 6:50 – Program Overview
 - What is CDBG
 - What can CDBG be used for
- 6:55 – What We've Heard
 - Community Assets
 - Information from Previous Meetings
 - Previous Investments
- 7:00 – Breakout Discussion
- 7:45 – Wrap Up & Review



Program Overview

- **What is Community Development Block Grant?**
 - Federal program that provides communities with annual grants to address a wide range of unique community development needs.
- **What can CDBG be used for?**
 - Affordable Housing Development, Homeownership Programs, Park Improvements, Streets & Sidewalks, Public Services, Job Training, Economic Development, Community Centers, Food Banks, Senior Services, Tree Planting, Health Centers, Technical Assistance to New and Existing Businesses, Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Programs, Lead Abatement, Historic Preservation, Crime Prevention, Neighborhood Cleanups, etc.

Active Participation

- **Priority Needs Boards**
 - Please place your stickers on the boards throughout the room to identify your concerns
 - There are multiple locations – we will collect information for all
- **Neighborhood Maps**
 - If there are specific areas in the neighborhoods that you have concerns about, please write on the post-it notes and place them on the map
- **Community Survey**
 - On the reverse side of the agenda is a brief survey. Please complete and return to the survey box at the front of the room or hand it to a City employee.

Community Assets



What We've Heard

- **Parks & Open Space**

- Many parks are in need of maintenance and upgrades, safer environments, more lighting, trash cleanup, and in some cases additional programming to reflect current needs (particularly Corliss Park and Ascham Park and Iola French Park)
- Condition of, and access to, Canada Pond is of concern – need to work with DEM to improve water quality, restore the beach, schedule cleanups, and improve/define neighborhood access points
- Consider an enclosed dog parks or dog run areas at Corliss and Wanskuck Parks
- Determine feasibility of a water/spray park at Corliss and a playground at Wanskuck
- Identify potential locations for community gardens and establish gardens at area schools

What We've Heard

- **Commercial / Economic Development**

- Support for the Charles Street Business Association
- Encourage coordinated efforts to improve facades, lighting, signage and streetscapes along commercial corridors (Smith Street, Charles Street, Douglas Ave.)
- Work with the business association to install gateways to Hopkins Square along Charles Street and Branch Avenue
- Mixed-use redevelopment of commercial mill building on Branch Ave.

- **Housing**

- Many poorly maintained properties due to absentee landlords and neglect affecting the neighborhoods through declining property values and blight
- Better enforcement of building codes violations (especially on Tappan, Hawkins, Anchor, Lancashire, and Moy Streets)
- Support the work of the North End Housing Development Corporation, Smith Hill Community Development Corporation and other CDCs in the North End to develop affordable housing and assist in neighborhood improvements

What We've Heard

- **Healthy Neighborhoods**

- Need more trees and landscaping, lighting, streetscaping, and enforcement of overgrown shrubbery
- Establish a regular storm drain cleaning and street sweeping schedule
- Litter is a key concern of most neighborhood residents and could be addressed with neighborhood cleanup days
- Need to address trash, sometimes in bulk, on the Charles Street property opposite the intersection with Silver Spring

- **Accessibility, Mobility, and Infrastructure**

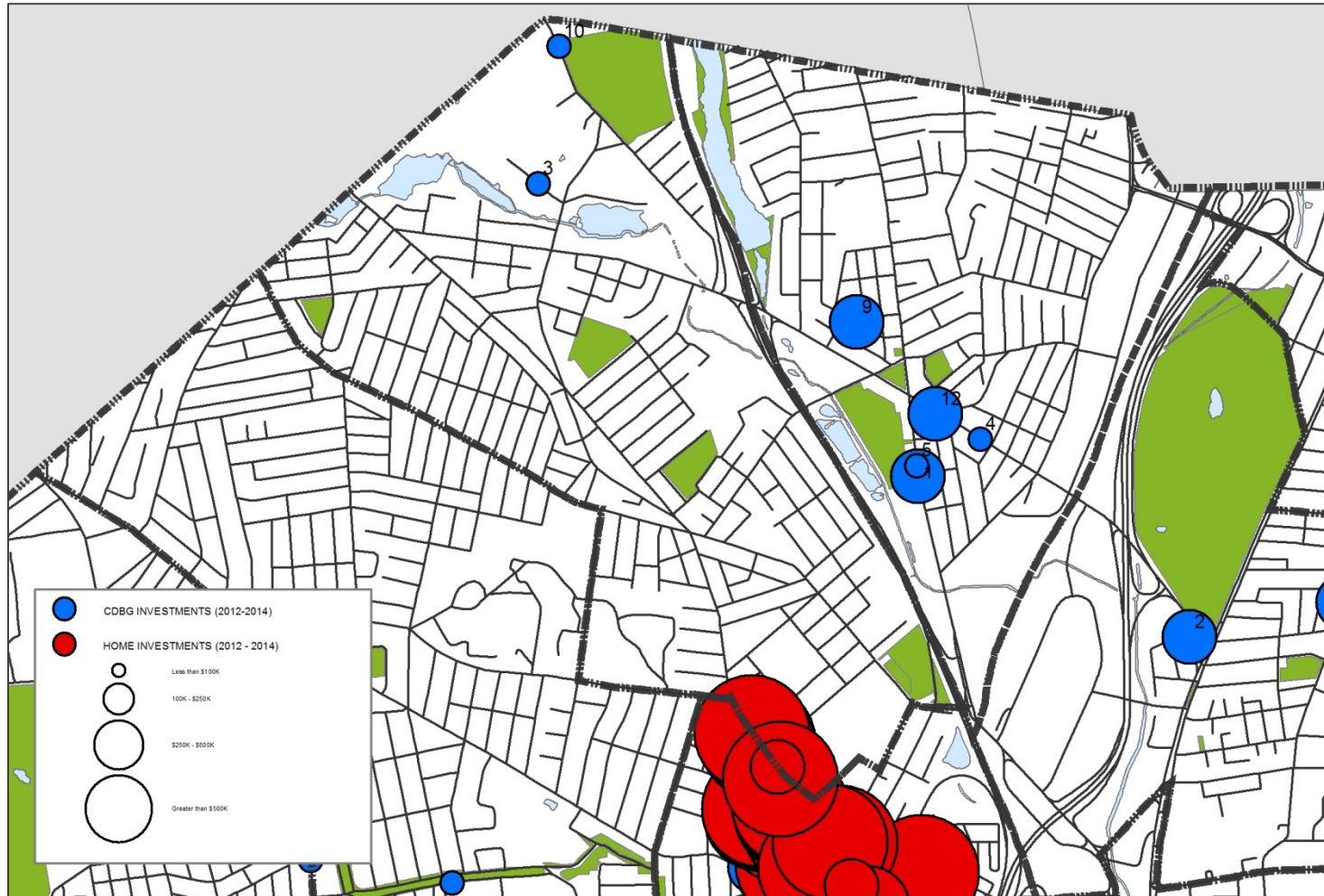
- Need better connections to downtown along Douglas Avenue and Charles Street and across major corridors including Branch Avenue, Hawkins Street, and Admiral Street
- Need crosswalk improvements at numerous locations throughout neighborhood
- Branch Avenue and Admiral Street need to be more pedestrian-friendly
- Need improved traffic signal synchronization
- Repave Branch Avenue and restripe Douglas, Charles, Branch, and Admiral

What We've Heard

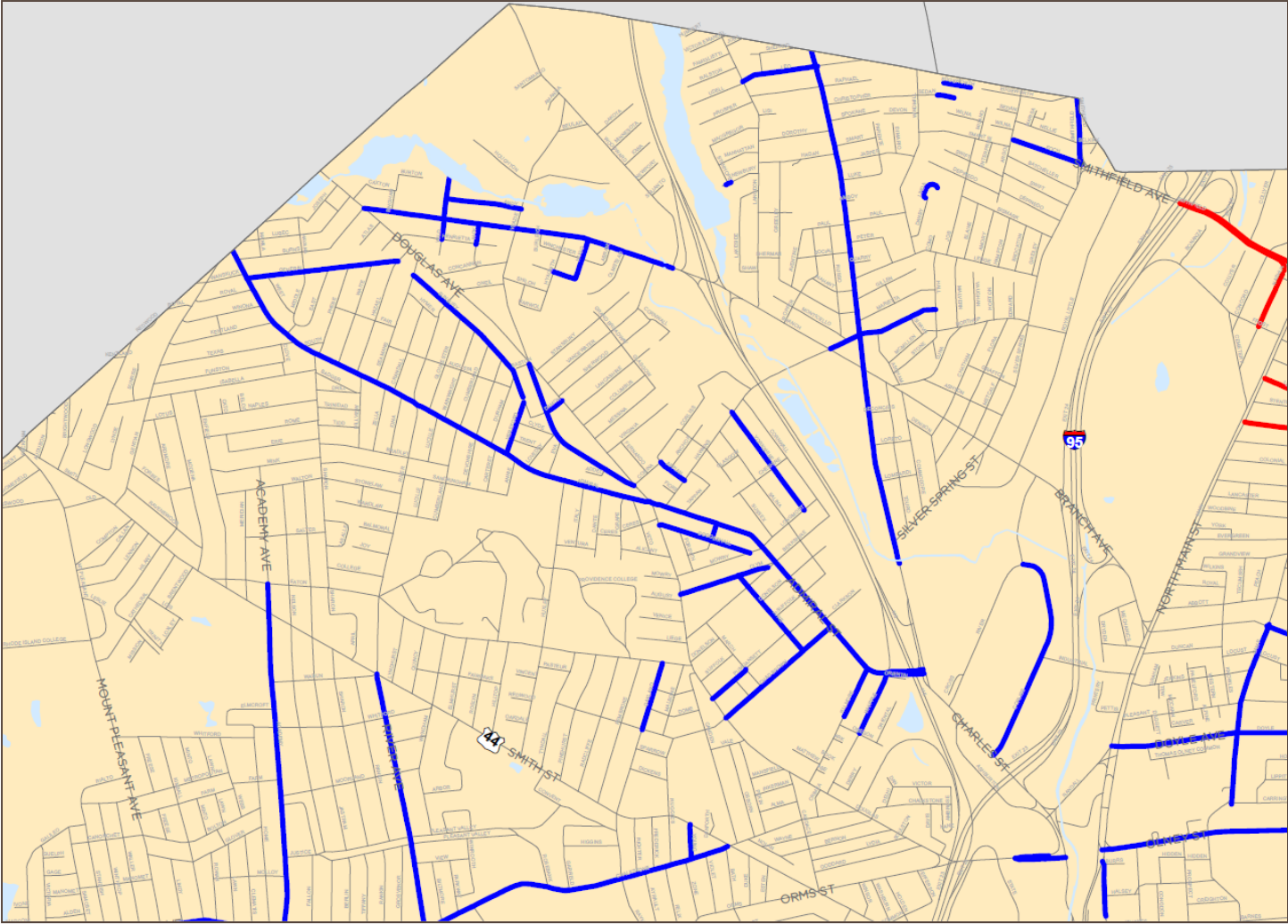
- **Public Safety**

- Enforce speed limits on certain streets (particularly Vandewater, Sherwood and Langdon Streets)
- Enforce parking and traffic restrictions
- Concern about safety in public open spaces and along some streets
- Improve lighting in parks and possibly establish additional neighborhood crime watches and a neighborhood police liaison program
- Concern about spas in community, especially along Douglas Avenue

Investments Made



Road Improvements



Breakout Discussion

- Are we on the right track?
- What are we missing?
- What should our priorities be?
- What do you want to see in your neighborhood?
 - Services for Adults and/or Children
 - Parks, Recreation, Sports, Community Centers
 - Affordable Housing, Blight Removal, Code Enforcement
 - Commercial District Improvements, Economic Development
 - Streets, Sidewalks, Bike Lanes, Crosswalks

Wrap Up

- **Breakout Discussion**
 - Feedback from Facilitated Conversations

Wrap Up

- **Consolidated Plan**

- Guidance document for CDBG funds
- Community Meetings – March & April
- The information will help inform the Consolidated Plan
- Public to review Consolidated Plan and offer comments
- Provide us with your contact information so we can contact you to review the Consolidated Plan
- Final draft will be completed in May

<http://www.providenceri.com/planning/consolidated-plan>

Meeting Schedule

Date	Time	Location
Tues. March 3	6:30pm	Webster Avenue School 191 Webster Avenue
Wed. March 4	6:30pm	Fox Point Boys & Girls Club 90 Ives Street
Tues. March 10	6:30pm	West Broadway Neighborhood Association 1560 Westminster Street
Wed. March 18	6:30pm	SWAP 500 Broad Street
Tues. March 24	6:30pm	Washington Park Community Center 42 Jillson Street
Mon. March 30	6:30pm	Capitol Ridge 700 Smith Street
Mon. April 6	6:30pm	DaVinci Center 470 Charles Street
Thurs. April 9	6:30pm	Dr. Martin Luther King School 35 Camp Street



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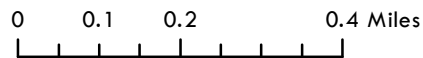
Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

Community Conversation #7 (April 6, 2015)

DaVinci Center

DISCUSSION NOTES

- Residents requested that funding continue to provide affordable housing for very low income individuals
- Residents noted a lack of community centers in the neighborhood
- More funding is needed for libraries, specifically for the Wanskuck branch. The roof is in desperate need of repair and the library lacks a community space to house youth and adult programs and an elevator.
- Residents expressed the need for more youth programs
- Better code enforcement is needed to address problem properties
- Public safety needs to be a priority and new officers need to be hired to replace those retiring
- Programming for seniors needs to be a priority
- Boys & Girls Club amenities (pool, movies, swim lessons, etc.) need to be better advertised in the community
- Programs from different community organizations should be consolidated
- Residents expressed interest in creating opportunities for high school youth to mentor/teach younger youth
- Sidewalks were not cleared during snow storms, esp. due to absentee landlords and this can be addressed through an existing program at Smith Hill CDC
- Residents expressed concern over the future of the Wanskuck Mill and argued that it either needs to be redeveloped as mixed-use or demolished
- There is a need for more adult education given the number of high school and college dropouts who are looking to enter the job force. Currently, most adult education services are offered on the Southside, however, public transit options at night are limited
- Funding is also needed to hire additional staff to teach the adult education classes
- The City should better invest in youth in the foster care system that are targeted for sex trafficking and those who leave the foster care system and are at risk of issues such as drug abuse and homelessness



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS DAVINCI CENTER



PARKS + PLAYGROUNDS

- 1 Wanskuck Park
- 2 Canada Pond Management Area
- 3 Iola French Park
- 4 St. Ann's Plaza
- 5 Hopkins Square
- 6 Ascham St. Park
- 7 General St. Playground
- 8 Corliss Park
- 9 Prete-Metcalf Field
- 10 North Burial Ground
- 11 Hopkins Park
- 12 Esek Hopkins Homestead
- 13 Billy Taylor Park
- 14 Pleasant St. Park
- 15 Vincent Brown Recreation
- 16 Father Lennon Park
- 17 Selim-Rogers Recreation
- 18 Pleasant Valley Parkway
- 19 RFK Recreation
- 20 Fagnoli Park
- 21 Tom Twitchell Greenway



SCHOOLS

- 1 E-Cubed Academy
- 2 Veazie Street School
- 3 Esek Hopkins Middle School
- 4 Robert F. Kennedy School
- 5 Harry Kizirian Elementary School
- 6 Times 2 Academy
- 7 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School



LIBRARIES

- 1 Wanskuck Branch
- 2 Smith Hill Branch

PLEASE PLACE 1 DOT NEXT TO EACH OF THE 3 MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

HOUSING / SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH HIV/AIDS

ACCESSIBILITY FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES



LOW-QUALITY / UNSAFE / UNHEALTHY HOUSING



POVERTY



PUBLIC SAFETY



HOMELESSNESS



DRUG / ALCOHOL ADDICTION



SENIOR SERVICES



PUBLIC HOUSING



EDUCATION



JOBS / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



SOCIAL SERVICES FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN



AFFORDABLE HOUSING



PARKS / SPORTS / RECREATION



LIBRARY
PUBLIC WORKS



PLEASE SHARE OTHER ISSUES

Lined area for sharing other issues.



CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

Community Conversation #7 (April 6, 2015)

DAVINCI CENTER

SURVEY RESULTS

What are the most important issues of concern or priority needs in your community?

VOTES

ISSUE

1	<i>Accessibility for Those with Disabilities</i>
4	<i>Affordable Housing</i>
1	<i>Drug or Alcohol Addiction</i>
4	<i>Education</i>
2	<i>Homelessness</i>
	<i>Housing and Services for Persons with HIV/AIDS</i>
6	<i>Jobs / Economic Development</i>
5	<i>Parks / Sports / Recreation</i>
2	<i>Poverty</i>
	<i>Public Housing</i>
8	<i>Public Safety</i>
4	<i>Low-Quality / Unsafe / Unhealthy Housing</i>
4	<i>Senior Services</i>
4	<i>Social Services for Adults and Children</i>
<i>Other:</i>	<i>Refurbish the community room at the library for up-to-date meetings/business/education; adult education; public works – fix my street; library;</i>

How can the City better respond to and address your community concerns?

- Keep having meetings
- Allocate CDBG evenly amongst neighborhoods
- Utilize CDBG to develop affordable housing, especially housing for very low income people, to address homelessness
- Streamline application process for CDBG with state's process to facilitate organizations applying for multiple projects
- Support collaborative programming between school, library and Boys & Girls club



CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

- Staff to implement program
- GED at Wanskuck library
- Increased outreach and services for youth in foster care at risk of sex trafficking as well as youth who have aged out of foster care and experience homelessness, increased rates of incarceration and low education and unemployment
- The City needs to apply for adult education funds that are available and set up an adult education system spread geographically through the city. Young adults and middle age adults are clamoring for a second chance at education. Providence has not applied for funds in years.
- Take a look at Lancashire Street. It is the worst street in Providence. We have standing water all over with only 2' of rain. This street needs immediate attention.
- More cops than firefighters
- Image - unsafe, unfriendly, dangerous
- Graffiti hurts entire community

Additional Comments:

- In addition to utilizing CDBG to end homelessness, the Providence Housing Authority can prioritize project-based unites and tenant-based Housing Choice Vouchers (as well as HUD VASH) to serve homeless individuals and families. Collaboration with the RI Continuum of Care placement committees would be appreciated. I would also mention that opposition to affordable housing development in other cities in RI (especially Woonsocket) is putting investment at risk with state proposals to increase taxes or exempt communities from the Low-Moderate Income Housing Act.
- If we want industry to locate here, then we must have an educated workforce. Adult education must at least assist with literacy and basic adult education. There are waiting lists at every education center. Also need more programs for adolescents and need better mass transit.
- Need support for high quality early learning and out-of-school time centers and programming such as Roger Williams Day Care Center
- No jobs = issues, public safety
- More police patrols please!
- Too much drug dealing
- Out of state cars! NY and MA
- Cars driving by with loud music