

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

March 18th, 2015

Stop Wasting Abandoned Property



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

- **Accessibility & Mobility**

- Need to improve connections from Elmwood and Lower South Providence into Roger Williams Park, and from Upper South Providence to Collier Park
- Traffic congestion along Elmwood Avenue, Broad Street, Eddy Street, and Public Street
- Desire for access to the waterfront and local attractions and events to draw people to the water

- **Public Services**

- Want more recreation spaces and more community services geared towards children and the elderly in the neighborhood
- Residents feel that the area is underserved with respect to library facilities and schools
- Many residents expressed a need for improvement in the existing schools

What We've Heard

- **Housing**

- Would like greater access to safe and affordable housing, to improve and maintain the character of the neighborhoods
- Poor property maintenance from absentee landlords and owners
- Increasing number of vacant and foreclosed homes in the neighborhoods. Many streets have vacant, vandalized and boarded houses
- Lack of information regarding historic district guidelines for new homeowners

- **Economic Development**

- Interest in retaining local businesses and finding opportunities to help them grow
- Need for jobs in the neighborhoods and for neighborhood residents

What We've Heard

- **Healthy Neighborhoods**

- Recommend that school facilities be open to the public after school hours to fully utilize resources and to allow more activities for neighborhood residents
- Would like to see public performances and displays by local artists
- Prevalence of parking on lawns, sidewalks, or double-parking, primarily on Broad Street
- Prevalence of trash and litter, need public trash cans
- Too much “street spam” of flyers and posters on the street
- Need to reuse empty and vacant lots
- Removal of unpleasant features, such as chain-link fences
- Want to preserve and utilize the abandoned synagogue on Broad Street

What We've Heard

- **Parks & Open Space**

- Additional gathering places are needed to accommodate community programs and activities, including functional open spaces with gardens and amenities, such as chess tables
- Want more green space and recreation opportunities for neighborhood youth and families
- Want to preserve opportunities for community gardening and create auxiliary programs such as a community composting program
- Fix the fountains in the Roger Williams Park so that they are functioning, expand the athletic fields and courts, ban ATVs in the park, and give more authority to park police
- Need to address graffiti and trash in the parks

What We've Heard

- **Public Safety**

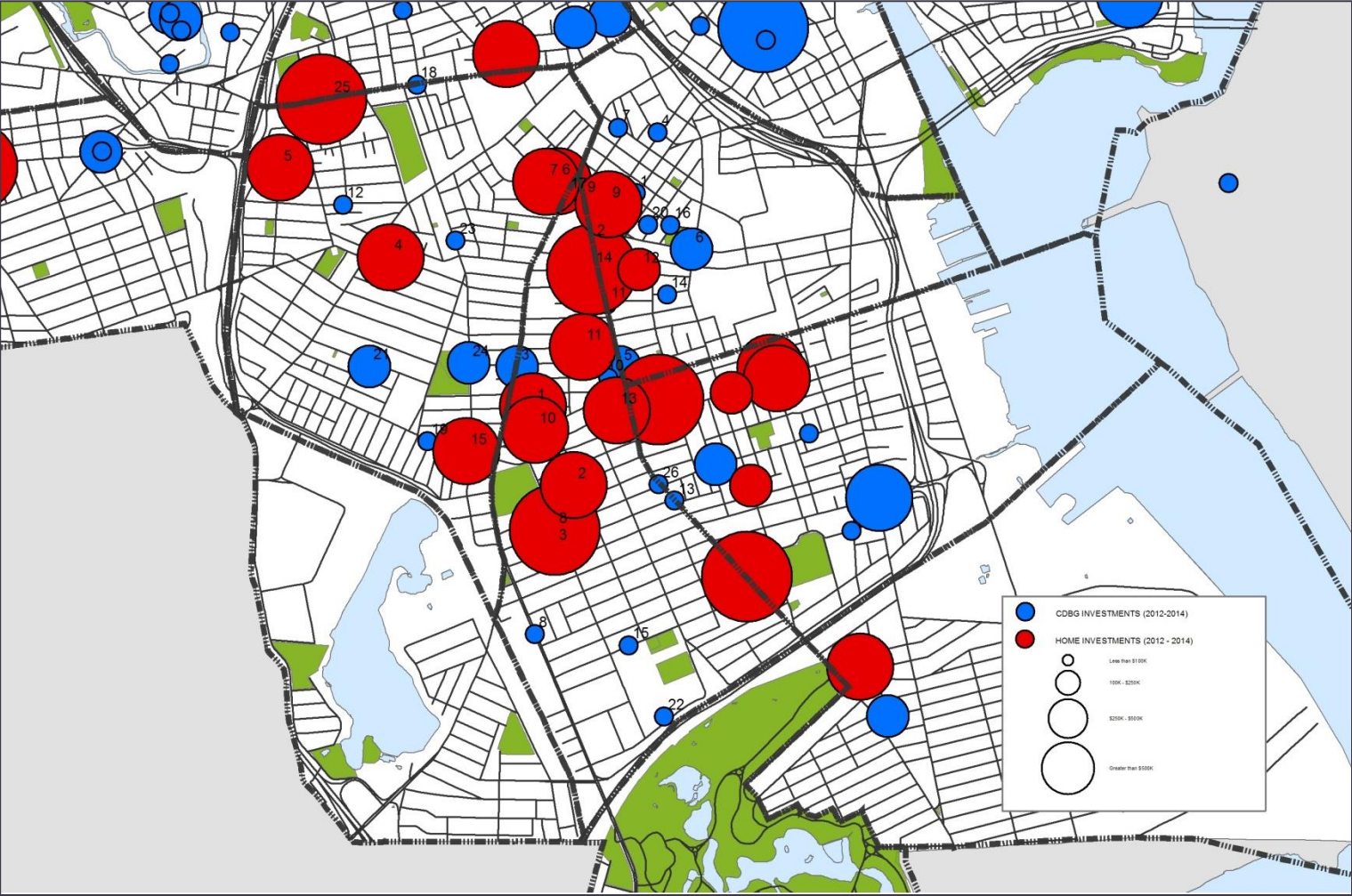
- Need better communication and an improved relationship with the police
- Broken streetlights need to be fixed
- Need to embrace Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design techniques
- Prostitution, loitering and littering are serious nuisance issues for residents and businesses
- More effort should be given to promoting pedestrian safety by installing traffic signs and crossing lights
- Too much illegal on-street parking – need to install proper signage, institute permit parking, and increasing enforcement
- Issues with public drinking in front of liquor stores

What We've Heard

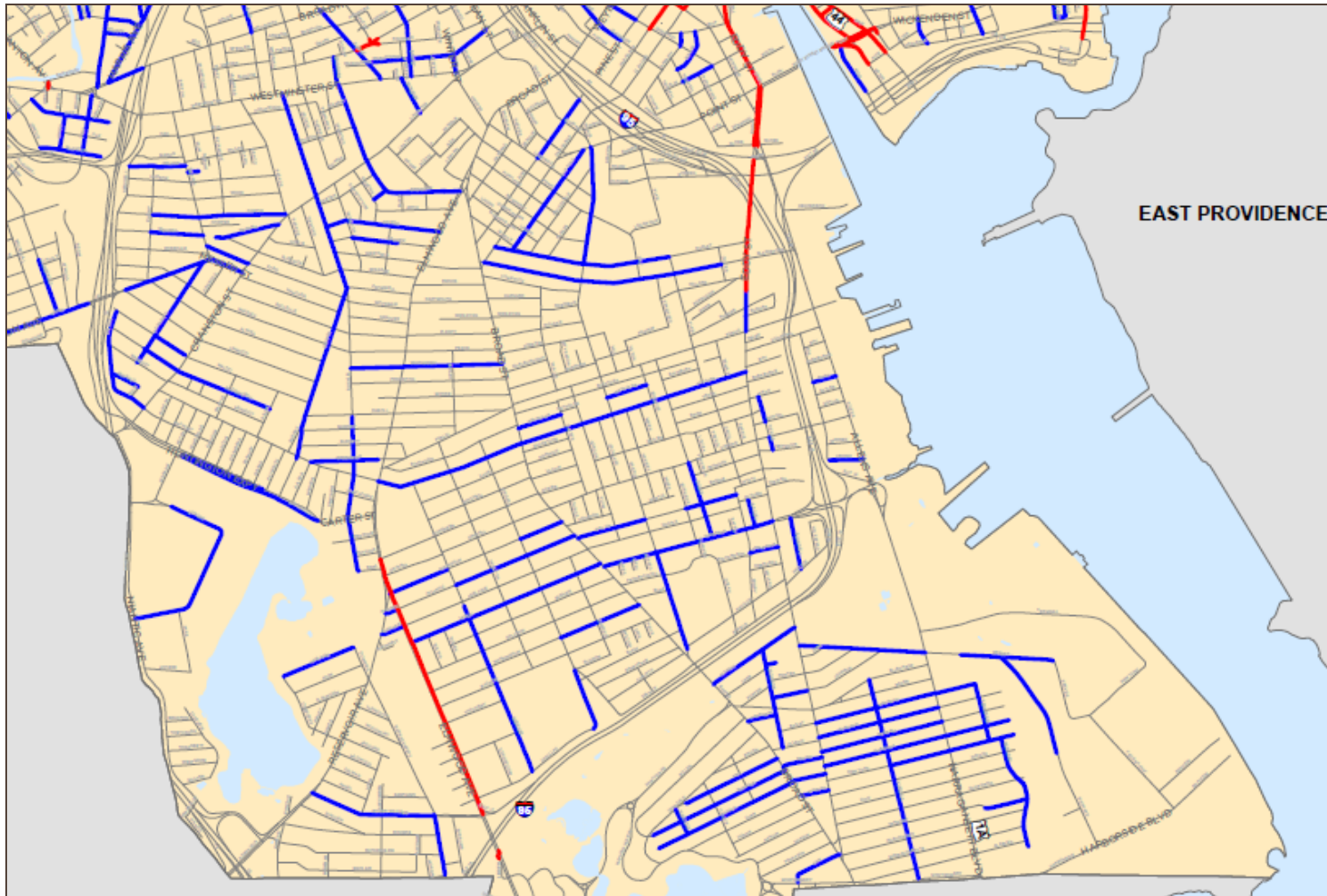
- **Infrastructure**

- Maintain the bike path along Allens Avenue
- Need more bike parking
- Roads, sidewalks, and streetlights need to be repaired throughout neighborhood
- Enhance streetscapes with additional trees and street furniture and bike lanes

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



CITY OF PROVIDENCE

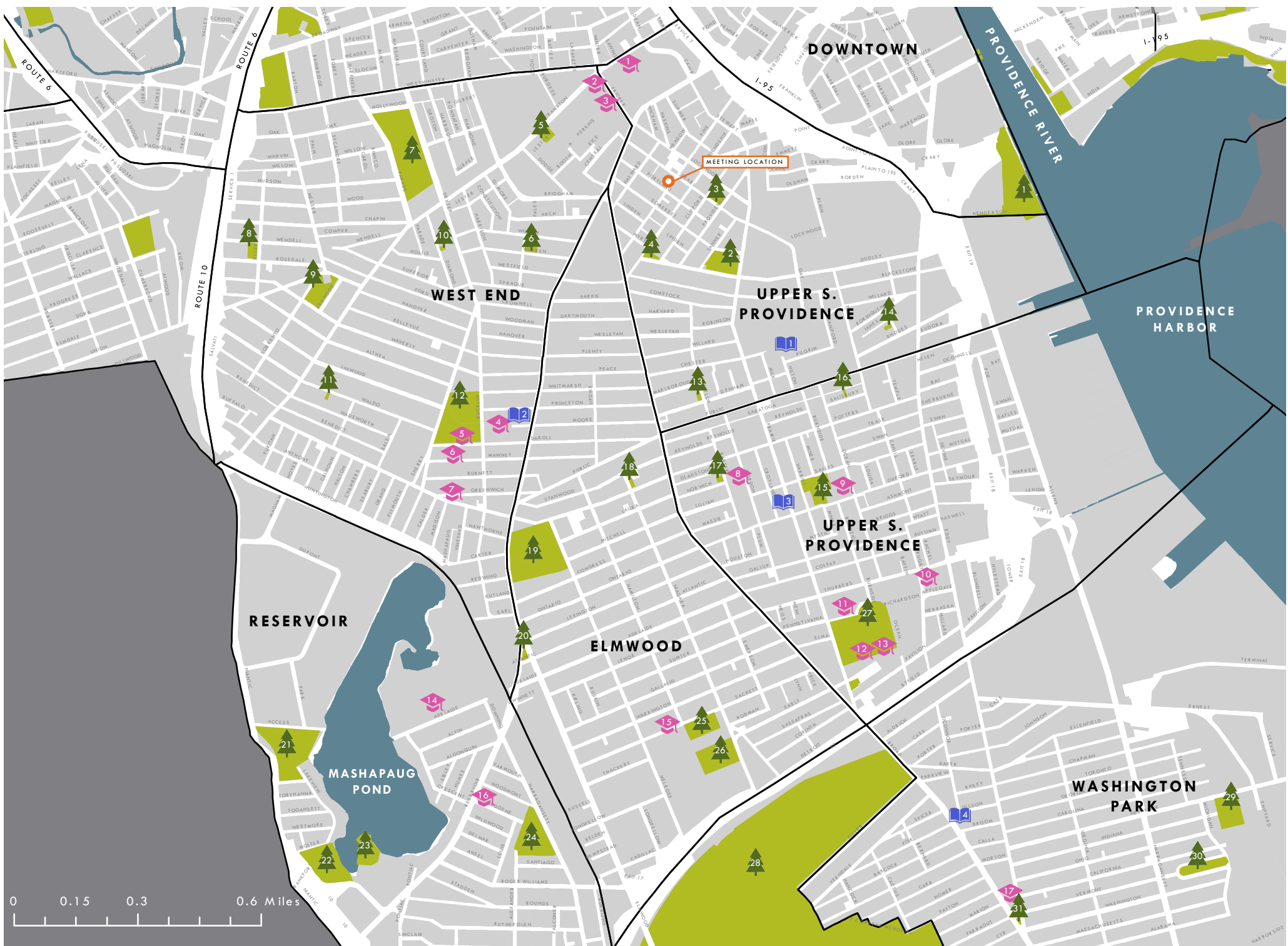
Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

Community Conversation #4 (March 18, 2015)

S.W.A.P.

DISCUSSION NOTES

- Many residents expressed concern over the lack of mixed-use affordable housing for seniors
- Residents believe that encouraging youth participation in community events/meetings should be a City priority
- Many residents feel that there needs to be more communication between the City and the community regarding current and future investments
- Residents feel strongly that funds should support drug prevention and re-entry programs for ex-offenders
- Residents suggested creating a community board for local events and bringing back the City's quarterly calendar of activities
- Many residents believe that there should be more dialogue between the City and local CDCs regarding CDBG funding changes
- Many residents expressed concern over the fact that the statewide transit planning effort is not including the West End neighborhood. Residents suggested that the City voice this concern.
- Residents suggested holding a series of community meetings to address public realm enhancements and better policing on Broad St between Trinity Square and Crossroads
- Residents expressed concern over the toleration of public intoxication along Broad St and requested that the licensing board adjust the operating hours of liquor stores
- Many residents feel that there needs to be a stronger partnership between the community organizations offering social services in the area
- Residents feel strongly that the area along Broad St between Trinity Square and Crossroads deserves additional funding given the influx of people from outside of the city that come to the area for services
- Many residents feel that impact assessments of previous funding commitments are needed
- Residents feels that the holistic approach from the 2009 neighborhood plans is not visible in the work of other city departments
- Many residents believe that the city should prioritize investing in youth in order to address the cycle of drug/alcohol addiction
- Residents expressed interest in developing a community-driven plan to be incorporated in the City's Consolidated Plan
- Many residents feel that public safety is a primary concern for the neighborhood



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS SWAP



PARKS + PLAYGROUNDS

- 1 Collier Point Park
- 2 Davey Lopes Park
- 3 Pearl St. Park
- 4 Jacqueline Clements Park
- 5 Cranston St. Totlot
- 6 Warren Ave. Playground
- 7 Dexter Training Grounds
- 8 Ellery St. Park
- 9 Mansion Park
- 10 Diamond St. Playground
- 11 Waldo St. Totlot
- 12 Bucklin Park
- 13 Mattie Smith Totlot
- 14 Alphonso St. Totlot
- 15 Harriet & Sales Park
- 16 Salisbury St. Totlot
- 17 Baxter St. Park
- 18 Jennifer Rivera Memorial Park
- 19 Locust Grove Cemetery
- 20 Columbus Square
- 21 JT Owens Park
- 22 Murphy-Trainer Park
- 23 Mashapaug Pond Boating Ctr.
- 24 Ardoene Park
- 25 Sackett St. Park
- 26 Amos Early Park
- 27 Richardson Park
- 28 Roger Williams Park
- 29 Drummond Field
- 30 Columbia Park
- 31 Washington Park Square



SCHOOLS

- 1 Classical High School
- 2 Providence Career + Technical High School
- 3 Central High School
- 4 Gilbert Stuart Middle School
- 5 Alfred Lima, Sr. Elementary School
- 6 Charles N. Fortes Elementary School
- 7 Leviton Dual Language Elementary School
- 8 Robert L. Bailey, IV Elementary School
- 9 Mary E. Fogarty Elementary School
- 10 The William B. Cooley, Sr. High School
- 11 Roger Williams Middle School
- 12 The Sergeant Cornel Young Jr. Elementary School
- 13 The Charlotte Woods Elementary School
- 14 Dr. Jorge Alvarez High School
- 15 Lillian Feinstein Elementary School
- 16 Reservoir Avenue School
- 17 Alan Shawn Feinstein Elementary School



LIBRARIES

- 1 Community College of RI Liston Campus
- 2 Knight Memorial Library
- 3 South Providence Branch
- 4 Washington Park 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

PLEASE SHARE OTHER ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Access to quality art education



CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

Community Conversation #4 (March 18, 2015)

SWAP

SURVEY RESULTS

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

VOTES

ISSUE

	<i>Accessibility for Those with Disabilities</i>
6	<i>Affordable Housing</i>
1	<i>Drug or Alcohol Addiction</i>
3	<i>Education</i>
1	<i>Homelessness</i>
	<i>Housing and Services for Persons with HIV/AIDS</i>
6	<i>Jobs / Economic Development</i>
1	<i>Parks / Sports / Recreation</i>
3	<i>Poverty</i>
1	<i>Public Housing</i>
2	<i>Public Safety</i>
	<i>Low-Quality / Unsafe / Unhealthy Housing</i>
2	<i>Senior Services</i>
1	<i>Social Services for Adults and Children</i>
<i>Other:</i>	<i>Equity of sources between Providence neighborhoods; low housing for people making minimum wage</i>

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

- Do something about the safety of the community. People speeding and not stopping, hitting cars and people.
- Provide more police attention
- Provide more money for affordable housing development
- Limit opening times for liquor stores in area. Several on Broad St opens before 7 a.m
- Grace Church Cemetery needs attention to beautify and improve public safety
- Involve community residents in planning process before set in stone



CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

- Solicit input from residents and community stakeholders
- Work actively to keep residents involved
- More Jobs
- Essentials to give addicts hope and help with poverty

Additional Comments: