

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 24th, 2015

Washington Park Community 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

- **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**

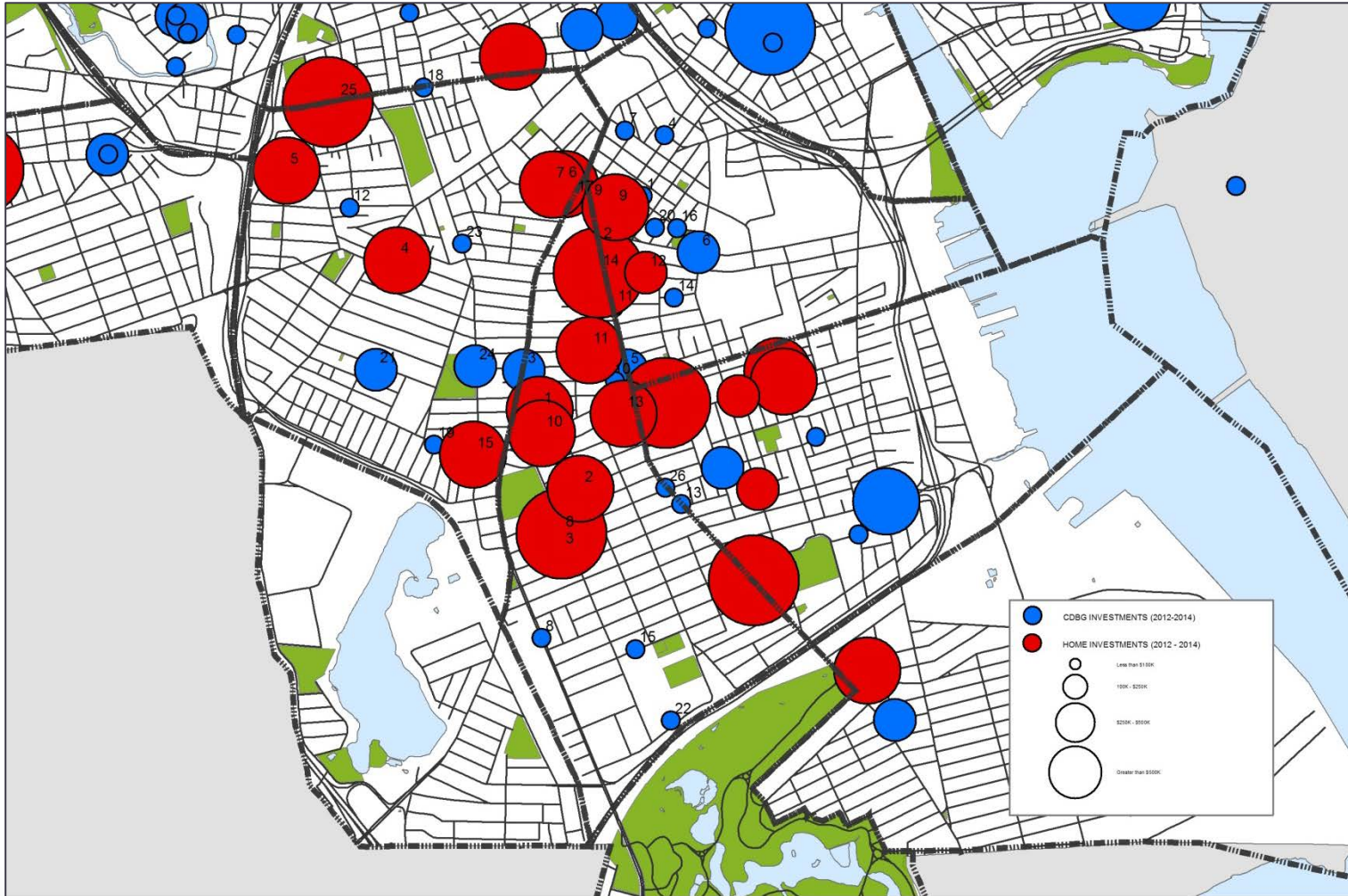
- Need better communication and an improved relationship with the police
- Broken streetlights need to be fixed
- Need to embrace Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design techniques
- Prostitution, loitering and littering are serious nuisance issues for residents and businesses
- More effort should 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

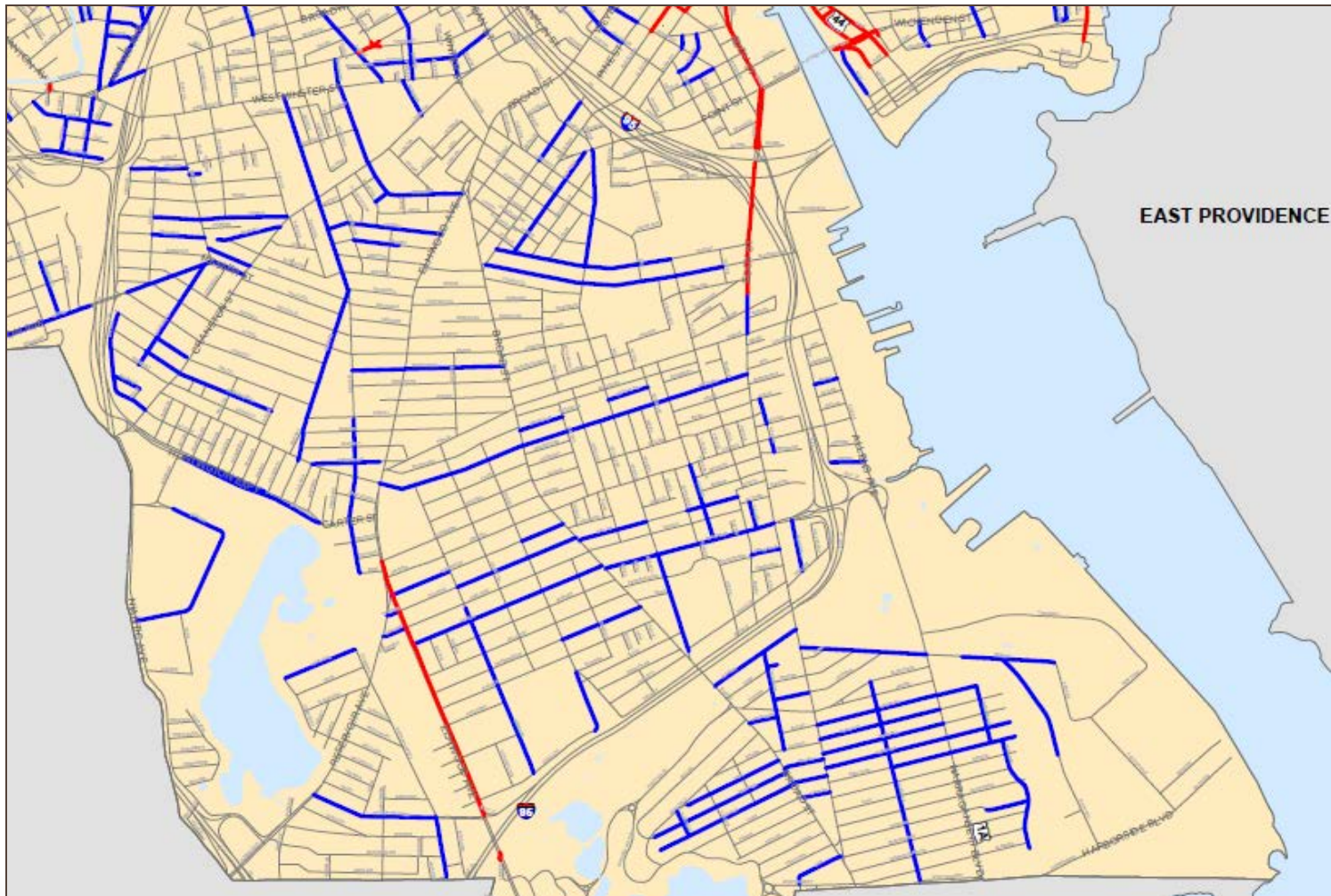
- **Infrastructure**

- 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 #5 (March 24, 2015)

Washington Park Community Center

DISCUSSION NOTES

- Residents requested more funding for youth development and believe that more awareness should be brought to this issue
- Residents requested funding for a down payment assistance program through the City and for more rental and ownership affordable housing
- Many residents feel that a stronger partnership between community organization is needed
- Residents believe that there should be more job training programs for youth
- Residents believe that the I-195 development opportunities should be better connected to the rest of city
- Residents are concerned over the lack of communication between the City and local communities and believe that community meetings should be better advertised
- Residents requested more funding for the Elmwood Community Center and for libraries in general.
- Residents believe that the City should encourage and develop more open space or additional parking on vacant parcels along Broad St
- Residents requested more funding for school facility maintenance (specifically for the Mary Foggarty School) and for family services offered through schools
- Residents believe that more communication between community organizations and City departments regarding available community services will lead to better allocation of funding and prevent duplication of programs
- Residents suggested developing centers of collaboration within the neighborhood to assist smaller community organizations secure funding



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS WASHINGTON PARK COMMUNITY CENTER



CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

Community Conversation #5 (March 24, 2015)

WASHINGTON PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

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>
	<i>Affordable Housing</i>
	<i>Drug or Alcohol Addiction</i>
1	<i>Education</i>
1	<i>Homelessness</i>
	<i>Housing and Services for Persons with HIV/AIDS</i>
3	<i>Jobs / Economic Development</i>
	<i>Parks / Sports / Recreation</i>
1	<i>Poverty</i>
	<i>Public Housing</i>
2	<i>Public Safety</i>
	<i>Low-Quality / Unsafe / Unhealthy Housing</i>
	<i>Senior Services</i>
	<i>Social Services for Adults and Children</i>
<i>Other:</i>	<i>Parking</i>

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

- More community meetings
- More available information to the community
- Community members at the table with policy and decision makers
- Continue to have open meetings

Additional Comments:

N/A