

# 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 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Capitol Ridge**



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



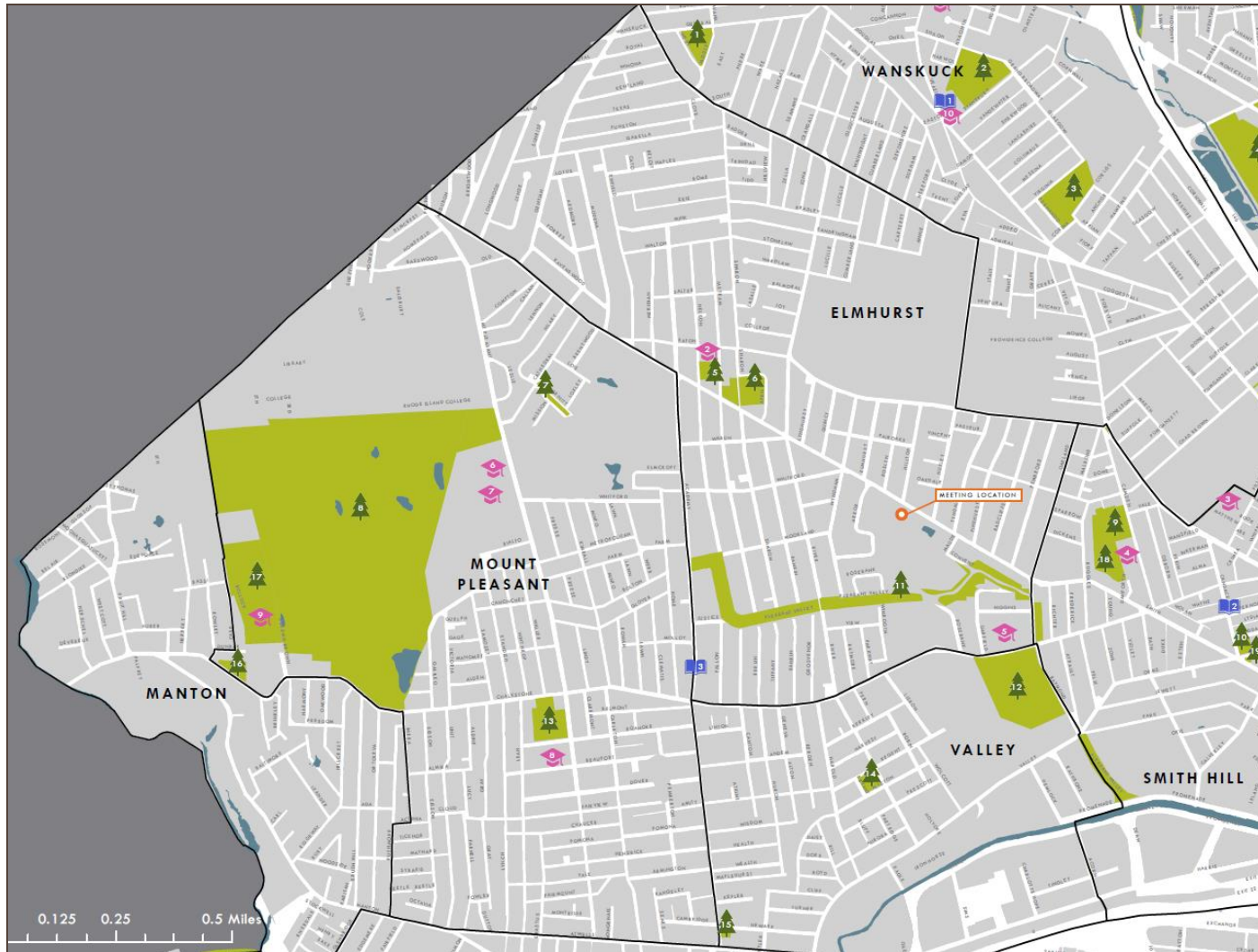
# Program Overview

- **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**

- Create trail connections between several neighborhood landmarks (Davis Park, Twitchell Park, LaSalle Academy, and Mt. Pleasant High School)
- Upgrade fields at Mt. Pleasant High School and address flooding concern
- Desire to use the sports facilities during the summer when school is not in session.
- Upgrade the clubhouse at Triggs Golf Course and open it for use by community organizations and have the senior discount for golfing reinstated
- Parks are in need of maintenance, safer environments and, in some cases, additional programming
- More patrols of Davis Park in the evenings



# What We've Heard

- **Commercial / Economic Development**
  - Encourage coordinated efforts to improve facades, lighting, signage and streetscapes in the commercial areas
  - Need for commercial district identities
  - Castle Theater is a prominent neighborhood landmark that needs to be restored and reused
- **Housing**
  - Some homes have been neglected and are affecting the neighborhoods through declining property values and blight
  - Better enforcement of building codes violations
  - Want existing community development corporations to work in the neighborhoods and improve substandard housing.
  - Implement home improvement programs and target these programs to certain parts of the neighborhoods

# What We've Heard

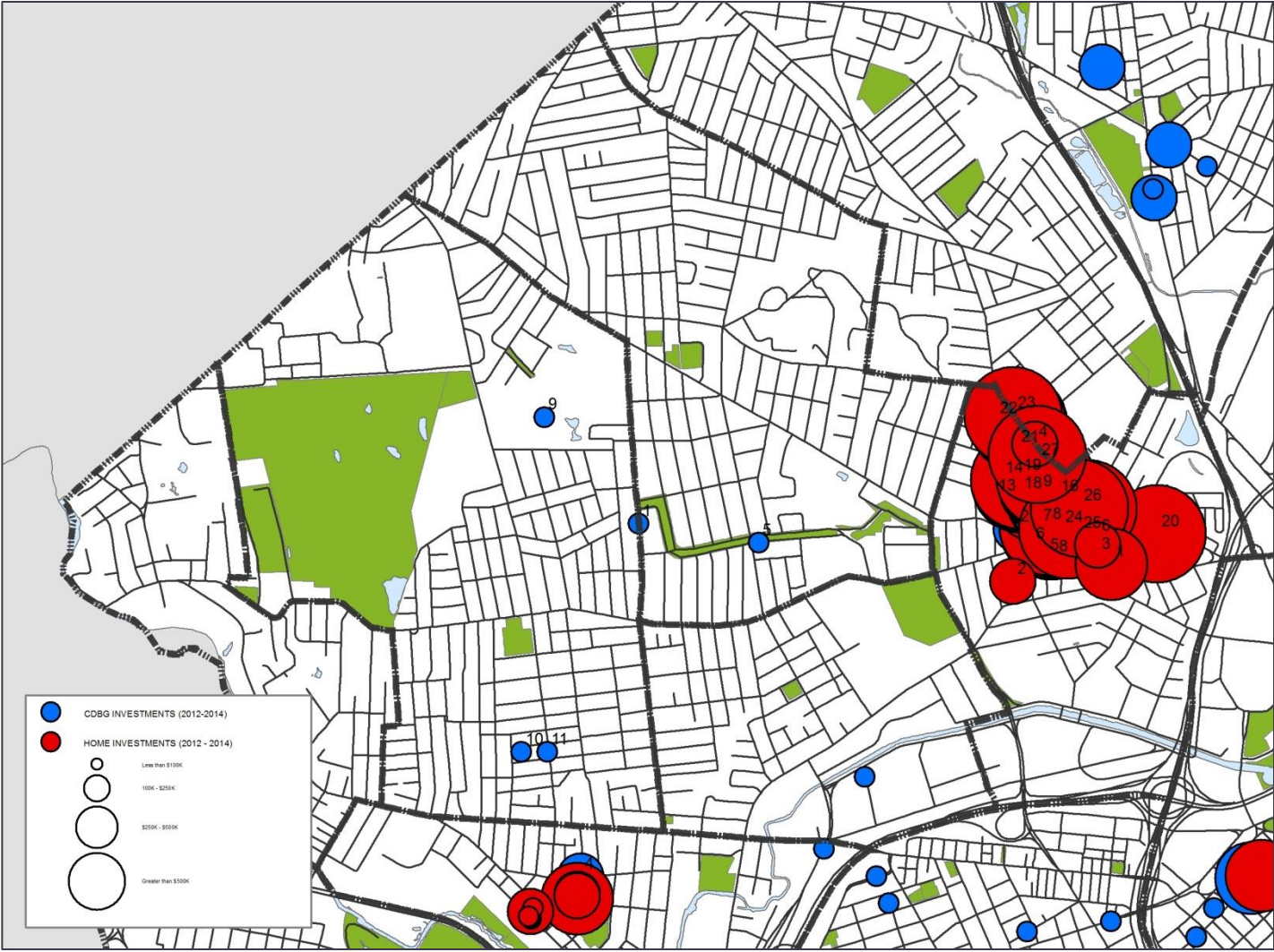
- **Healthy Neighborhoods**

- Want to maintain and grow the tree canopy in their neighborhood by adding street trees and protecting significant trees in the neighborhoods
- Need better crosswalks at numerous locations throughout neighborhood to be more pedestrian-friendly
- Litter is a key concern of most neighborhood residents and could be addressed with neighborhood cleanup days

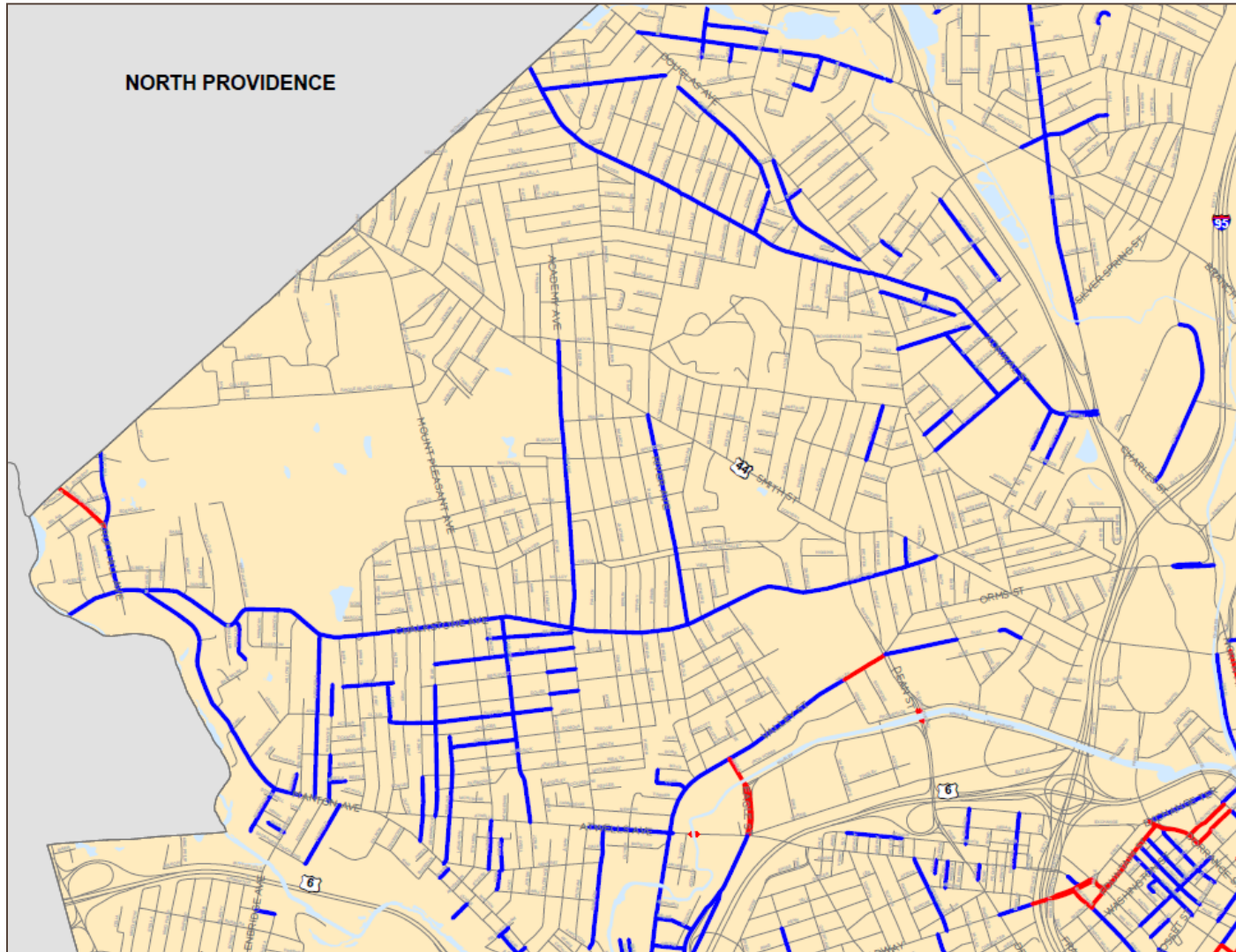
- **Accessibility, Mobility, and Infrastructure**

- Need more frequent transit service to Downtown and along the Chalkstone Avenue line
- Need to upgrade and repair sidewalks and road maintenance such as paving and pothole repair throughout the neighborhoods
- Bridges over the creek in Pleasant Valley Parkway need to be replaced, as they are in poor condition

# 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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
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 #6 (March 30, 2015)

*CAPITOL RIDGE*

**DISCUSSION NOTES**

- Youth sports and job development programs are needed, such as city-run sports leagues, to keep children busy
- Residents are in support of the Mayor's vision to create more afterschool programs, such as the chess club, and would encourage development of reading clubs and other activities for youth who are not inclined to participate in sports
- Residents would like to see Fagnoli Park looking beautiful again
- Organizations such as the Girl Scouts, have had difficulty offering youth programs in the public schools because they have had to fund school staff to keep buildings open and clean
- Youth organizations would likely be more willing to integrate their programs into afterschool programs if their efforts were better coordinated with existing programming and facility availability
- Residents would like to see more emphasis placed on enhancing streetscapes, beyond simply planting street trees, such as creating bio-swales to improve stormwater filtration
- Commercial districts in the neighborhood are in need of street lighting, storefront renovation, additional parking areas

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

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## COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS CAPITOL RIDGE



### PARKS + PLAYGROUNDS

- 1 General St. Playground
- 2 Iola French Park
- 3 Corliss Park
- 4 Prete-Metcalf Field
- 5 RFK Recreation
- 6 Fagnoli Park
- 7 Trinity Parkway
- 8 Trigg Memorial Golf Course
- 9 Father Lennon Park
- 10 Candace St. Playground
- 11 Pleasant Valley Parkway
- 12 Davis Park
- 13 West Park
- 14 Regent Ave. Playground
- 15 Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park
- 16 Viscolosi Park
- 17 Obediah Brown Fields
- 18 Selim-Rogers Recreation
- 19 Boyle Square



### SCHOOLS

- 1 E-Cubed Academy
- 2 Robert F. Kennedy School
- 3 Times 2 Academy
- 4 Harry Kizirian Elementary School
- 5 Nathanael Greene Middle School
- 6 Mt. Pleasant High School
- 7 Birch Vocational Center
- 8 George J. West Elementary School
- 9 Pleasant View School
- 10 Veazie Street School



### LIBRARIES

- 1 Wanskuck Branch
- 2 Smith Hill Branch
- 3 South Providence 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



SMITH HILL

WATOL RIDGE

PLEASE SHARE OTHER ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- FACILITIES FOR PEDESTRIANS and bicyclists.
- LITTER

UNITY



## CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

### Community Conversation #6 (March 30, 2015)

CAPITOL RIDGE

#### **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>
5	<i>Education</i>
1	<i>Homelessness</i>
	<i>Housing and Services for Persons with HIV/AIDS</i>
5	<i>Jobs / Economic Development</i>
7	<i>Parks / Sports / Recreation</i>
1	<i>Poverty</i>
	<i>Public Housing</i>
5	<i>Public Safety</i>
	<i>Low-Quality / Unsafe / Unhealthy Housing</i>
	<i>Senior Services</i>
1	<i>Social Services for Adults and Children</i>
<i>Other:</i>	<i>Litter; youth jobs for our area and community; climate change; Are we able to handle flooding, etc.?.; Do we have a plan?; energy efficiency</i>

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

- Better city services
- More trees, cleaner streets
- Houses kept to code, concerning illegal parking, trash on properties, paved yards
- To have a call center for our area/community (several leaders by location) that keeps our needs and concerns as a priority and not just another call to City Hall requesting services
- Promptly – I have submitted questions and requests without a response. A simple response would be nice.
- Our neighborhood needs a theme (for example, “creative capitol”) and then build around this idea
- We need to create a vision too with goals and objectives



**CITY OF PROVIDENCE**

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

- More street cleaning, graffiti, etc.
- Services for adults and children in the area

***Additional Comments:***

- Youth opportunities
- Community jobs
- An all year farm/local market at Fagnoli Park for small businesses to grow and support our community and neighborhood
- Job opportunities for youth
- City sports leagues
- Fix streets and sidewalks
- Improve neighborhood safety
- Increase police force
- Thank you for the effort and energy for putting this meeting together
- Very nice presentation - Mr. Hull very articulate, staff was helpful, covered a lot of ground this evening and he did a nice job explaining a complicated program