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: ___________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What are the most important issues of concern or priority needs in your community? <strong>Circle Three</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affordable Housing</td>
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</table>

Other: _______________________________________________________________________________________

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

Additional Comments: ____________________________________________________________
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

• **Housing**
  • Problem with absentee landlords not maintaining residential properties and owner occupants who are unable or unwilling to maintain their homes affecting the neighborhoods through declining property values and blight
  • Concerns focused on the affordability of in-fill housing
  • Interest in a home repair program

• **Parks & Open Space / Healthy Neighborhoods**
  • Improved lighting and improvements at Billy Taylor Park
  • Interest in areas designated for community gardens, additional green space, and park stewardship programs (such as “friends of” groups)
  • Need greater coordination of youth programs and public services in neighborhood
  • Need more street trees and better maintenance in some areas
What We’ve Heard

• Accessibility, Mobility, and Infrastructure
  • More access points to the North Burial Ground
  • Need better pedestrian connections across North Main Street, particularly to link pedestrians to the bus stops on the west side of the street.
  • Residents would like a comprehensive and safe sidewalk network so people can more easily walk through the neighborhoods and children have safe routes to school
  • Need for better bicycle and pedestrian connections across Branch Avenue and Smithfield Avenue from North Main Street
  • Stormwater drainage problems exist at several locations, most notably the “Third Street Lake” at Third Street and North Main
  • Need to preserve and improve the neighborhood schools
What We’ve Heard

• Public Safety
  • Improve community safety through increased police presence in the neighborhoods
  • Lighting improvements were suggested at several locations to deter illicit activities such as drug dealing
  • Enforcement of existing laws as an issue that needs to be addressed
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

## Meeting Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues. March 3</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Webster Avenue School, 191 Webster Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. March 4</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Fox Point Boys &amp; Girls Club, 90 Ives Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. March 10</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>West Broadway Neighborhood Association, 1560 Westminster Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. March 18</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>SWAP, 500 Broad Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues. March 24</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Washington Park Community Center, 42 Jillson Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. March 30</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Capitol Ridge, 700 Smith Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. April 6</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>DaVinci Center, 470 Charles Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. April 9</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Dr. Martin Luther King School, 35 Camp Street</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Conversation #8 (April 9, 2015)
MLK School
DISCUSSION NOTES

- Residents believe that more policing is not the solution and that there is a disconnect between police officers and the community. Many claim that the police force is not trying to build relationships with community members.
- Many feel that police officers should be better trained on how to approach youth.
- More funding is needed for sidewalks construction and improvements on the Southside near Amos House, specifically on Somerset St.
- Residents believe that more funding is needed for after school and job training programs.
- There is a need for neighborhood wide clean up.
- Many residents believe that there is a great economic and racial divide between the neighborhoods and that the neighborhood signs should be removed as they are only contributing to the problem.
- Residents suggested that the City’s weatherization program employ local community members.
- Many believe that the City’s economic development strategy is off track.
- Food security should be a City priority and efforts should focus on growing more food. More farming would also provide more employment opportunities for residents.
- More funding is needed for green infrastructure and stormwater initiatives.
- Many residents believe that capacity building is needed for youth programs.
- There is a great need for more funding for senior services and youth after school programs.
- Additional funding is needed for better promotion of higher education and small businesses.
- Residents requested better enforcement of weatherization contractors’ credentials (not all are fully licensed and insured).
- Many residents believe that there has been too much focus on planning, and not enough on focus on implementation. As a result, the same issues keep arising in the neighborhood.
- The City needs to focus on developing creative partnerships to enhance community health and development.
- Lead toxicity continues to be a big issue.
- Residents feel that LED bulbs should be used for street lights.
- Residents suggested creating a youth training program in landscaping similar to the one on the south side w/ Groundworks.
- Residents believe that there needs to be better coordination among school and community organizations.
- Existing city services need to be better advertised in the community.
- Residents believe that First Source regulations need to be better enforced by the city in order for the high unemployment and homeless rates to decline.
Residents suggested the possibility of developing a program to employ the homeless population through building rehabilitation projects

Residents believe that funding needs to be better allocated proportionally to communities in need

Housing discrimination for those with criminal records is a big issue in the community

More funding is needed for programs to address gun violence prevention
**COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS**  
**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SCHOOL**

### PARKS + PLAYGROUNDS
1. Canada Pond Management Area  
2. Prete-Metcalf Field  
3. St. Ann’s Plaza  
4. Hopkins Square  
5. Ascham St. Park  
6. Corliss Park  
7. North Burial Ground  
8. Hopkins Park  
9. Father Lennon Park  
10. Candace St. Playground  
11. Pleasant Valley Parkway  
12. Roger Williams Memorial Park  
13. Pleasant St. Park  
14. Billy Taylor Park  
15. Ninth St. Park  
16. Summit Ave. Park  
17. Lippitt Memorial Park  
18. Blackstone Boulevard Park  
19. Sessions St. Park  
20. Vincent Brown Recreation  
21. Blackstone Park  
22. Gladys Potter Park  
23. Brown St. Playground  
24. Prospect Terrace  
25. M.E. Sharpe Memorial Park

### SCHOOLS
1. Esek Hopkins Middle School  
2. Times 2 Academy  
3. Harry Kizirian Elementary School  
4. Nathan Bishop Middle School  
5. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School  
6. Hope High School

### LIBRARIES
1. Rochambeau Branch  
2. Smith Hill Branch
Community Conversation #8 (April 9, 2015)
MLK School
SURVEY RESULTS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOTES</th>
<th>ISSUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Accessibility for Those with Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Affordable Housing</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Drug or Alcohol Addiction</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>Homelessness</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Housing and Services for Persons with HIV/AIDS</td>
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<td>Jobs / Economic Development</td>
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<td>Parks / Sports / Recreation</td>
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<td>Public Safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Low-Quality / Unsafe / Unhealthy Housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Senior Services</td>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

Other: Infrastructure, Gun violence, after school programs, reentry housing when family are denied housing when she or her get out of prison, pedestrian crossing at Hope & N. Main, sidewalk condition, climate change, energy efficiency, change to LED bulbs in street lights, resident low income housing, lead paint, turn vacant land into gardens (at least a couple in South Providence)-neighbors could/might work together on a project, Racial and economic division, public schools.

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

− Tool library- power washers, etc.
− Remove street signs that designate neighborhood divide- i.e. Blackstone, Mt. Hope, and Summit
− Listen and respond. Kevin Jackson does not listen or respond - difficult to reach- Dare I say? – he’s close to useless!!
I believe that the City has been making initial investments that need to be continued and followed through to the next phase.

Stormwater alleviation-landscaping as job training for youth as has been done in Reservoir Triangle, South Providence, West End in conjunction with Groundworks.

Grow more food, understand that we are in a low growth environment and need to ecological reality and economic justice.

Do not let millionaires buffalo us for tax breaks.

By holding more forums like this and by listening to the people who are directly impacted by these issues. Let’s work towards solutions!

The abandoned houses in the city and the high unemployment need to brought together to solve both problems.

Fix the streets in the Main Square.

Have a safety place for our young people can be not on the street (recreation).

By reaching out to the community and hosting many meetings to people live here.

More comprehensive dialogue and interaction.

Funding for youth and economic development initiatives.

Meaningful programming to promote neighborhood-wide for community development at large comprehensive with impact.

Additional Comments:

- Thank you for including us in these conversations.
- Make clear it is a mixed economy not a capitalist. No capitalist would accept a public subsidy.
- Thank you for this discussion.
- I like to talk with someone about this feel free to call me anytime thank you.
- Volunteer ambulance sense to promote: job training, disaster preparedness, community service, economic and community development, increased self-esteem, assistance for seniors, relief for overburdened City EMS, health and safety promotions, huge return on investment. Would like to discuss with city agencies.
- We need to improve our environmental service as well as jobs and training programs.
- Need better clean up grow storm drain.
- Stop environmental racism in South Providence now!
- Housing is a human right!
- Jobs with justice!
- Referrals for health and education.
- Coordination of agencies for education/mentoring, outside the neighborhood trips, activities, college/career preparation.
- Weatherization program with hiring of neighborhood folk.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
444 Westminster Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903
401 680 8400 ph | 401 680 8492 fax
www.providenceri.com
• NBC repair of road at top of Hope/Blackstone
• Speed of cars on Tenth St. is awful - really need speed bumps - might reduce amount of traffic - many children and elderly
• Lippitt Park needs a make-over
• Lots of talk about preparing kids for college, however, not everyone wants to go to college, but they do need a trade – and we need plumbers, electricians, roofers, etc.