

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 10th, 2015

West Broadway Neighborhood Association



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



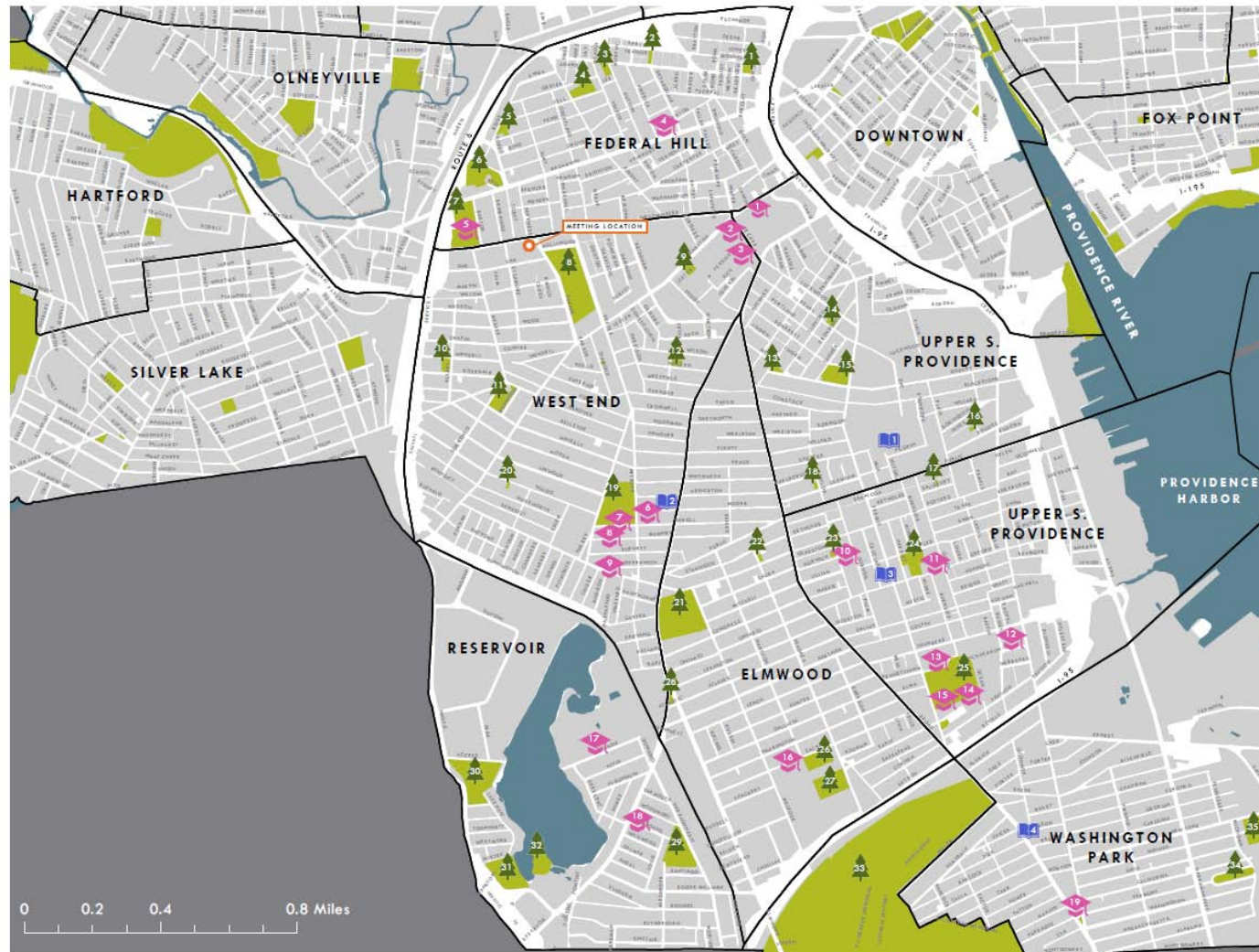
Program Overview

- **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

- **Mobility & Accessibility**

- Re-establish a connection to Downtown via Westminster St. through the current site of Bishop McVinney Auditorium
- Improve pedestrian accessibility and walkability at major intersections of Westminster/Parade, Westminster/Dexter, Dean/Atwells; Reservoir/Pontiac; and Bainbridge Avenue, Dexter and Knight Streets, and Route 10
- Desire for improved bike connections between the neighborhoods and Downtown, Roger Williams Park and the Washington Secondary Bike Path in Cranston

- **Housing**

- Desire to protect the unique residential and commercial character of Federal Hill and the West End through enforcement of existing regulations such as minimum housing standards and building codes
- Rehab blighted and foreclosed properties to maintain property values
- Create and provide more affordable housing

What We've Heard

- **Healthy Neighborhoods**

- Create neighborhood gateways at the main entrances along Broadway, Westminster Street, Cranston Street, and Atwells Avenue.
- Additional trees and flowers should be planted in community gardens
- Widen sidewalks along Atwells Avenue to allow room for additional outside dining
- Need regular street sweeping schedule (more than annually)
- Desire for public trash cans along commercial corridors, and recycling bins in public parks
- Regular storm drain cleaning would alleviate much of the flooding issues in the area

- **Commercial District / Economic Development**

- Westminster Street lacks a clear identity and needs to develop one, in collaboration with merchants along the street
- Revitalize the Neighborhood Markets program for Cranston Street

What We've Heard

- **Parks & Open Space**

- Need to improve maintenance, lighting and trash pick-up at parks (particularly in association with the farmers market)
- Recreation fields need to be reseeded and playgrounds repaired
- Dead trees and stumps need to be removed from parks and recycling bins and composting resources should be available in parks
- Interest in a new park/green space between Broadway and Westminster
- Consider using vacant parcels for pocket parks
- Would like to see the Mashapaug Pond boat house reused for recreation and formalized trails

- **Public Safety**

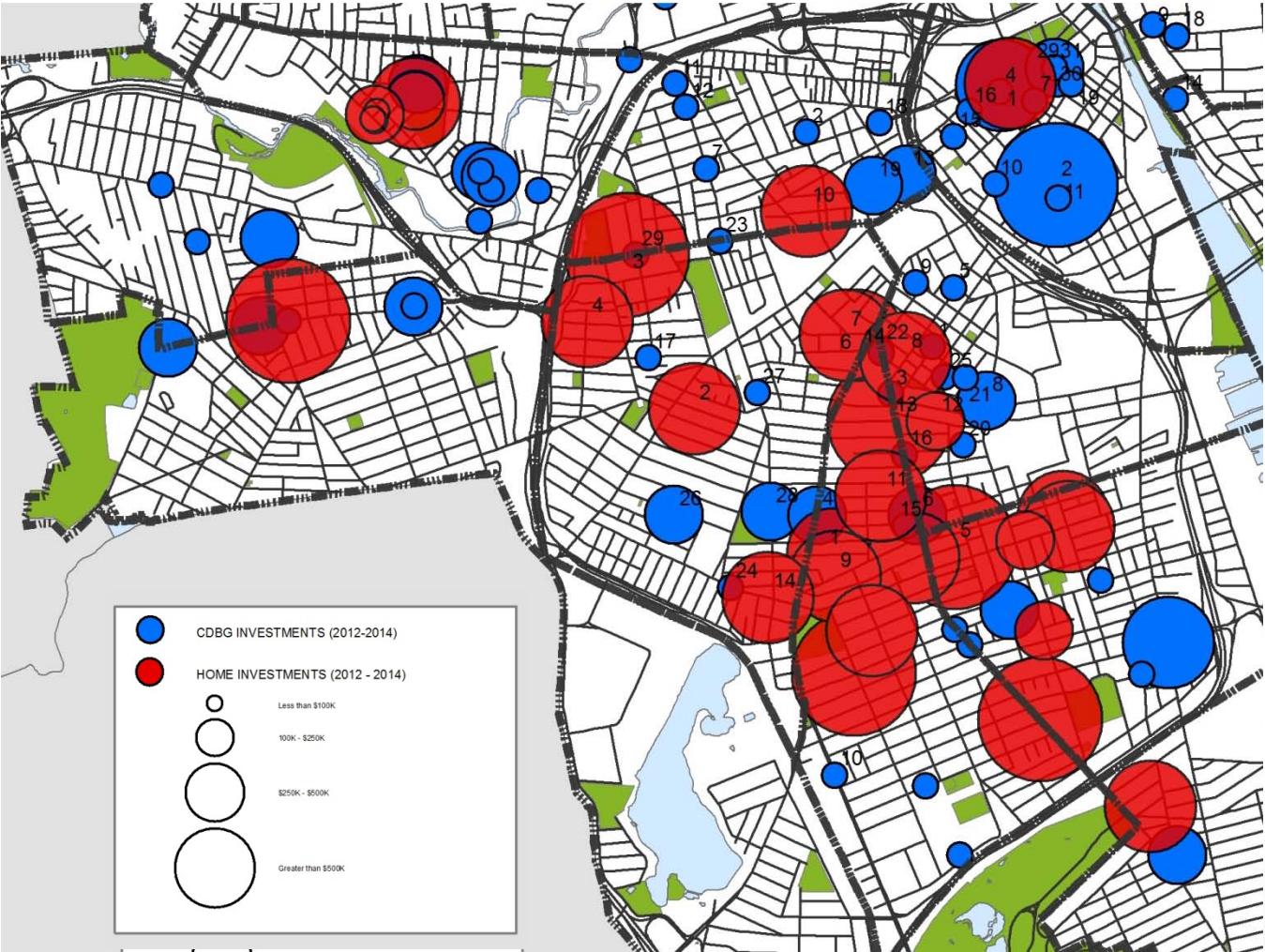
- Safety is a concern in Federal Hill, West End, Olneyville & Reservoir. Residents would like to see increased police presence
- Speeding is an issue throughout area that requires increased enforcement
- Increased lighting at Ridge Street Park to deter illicit activities (i.e., drugs)
- Concern about large trucks travelling through the neighborhood on Broadway instead of Westminster Street, which is the designated truck route

What We've Heard

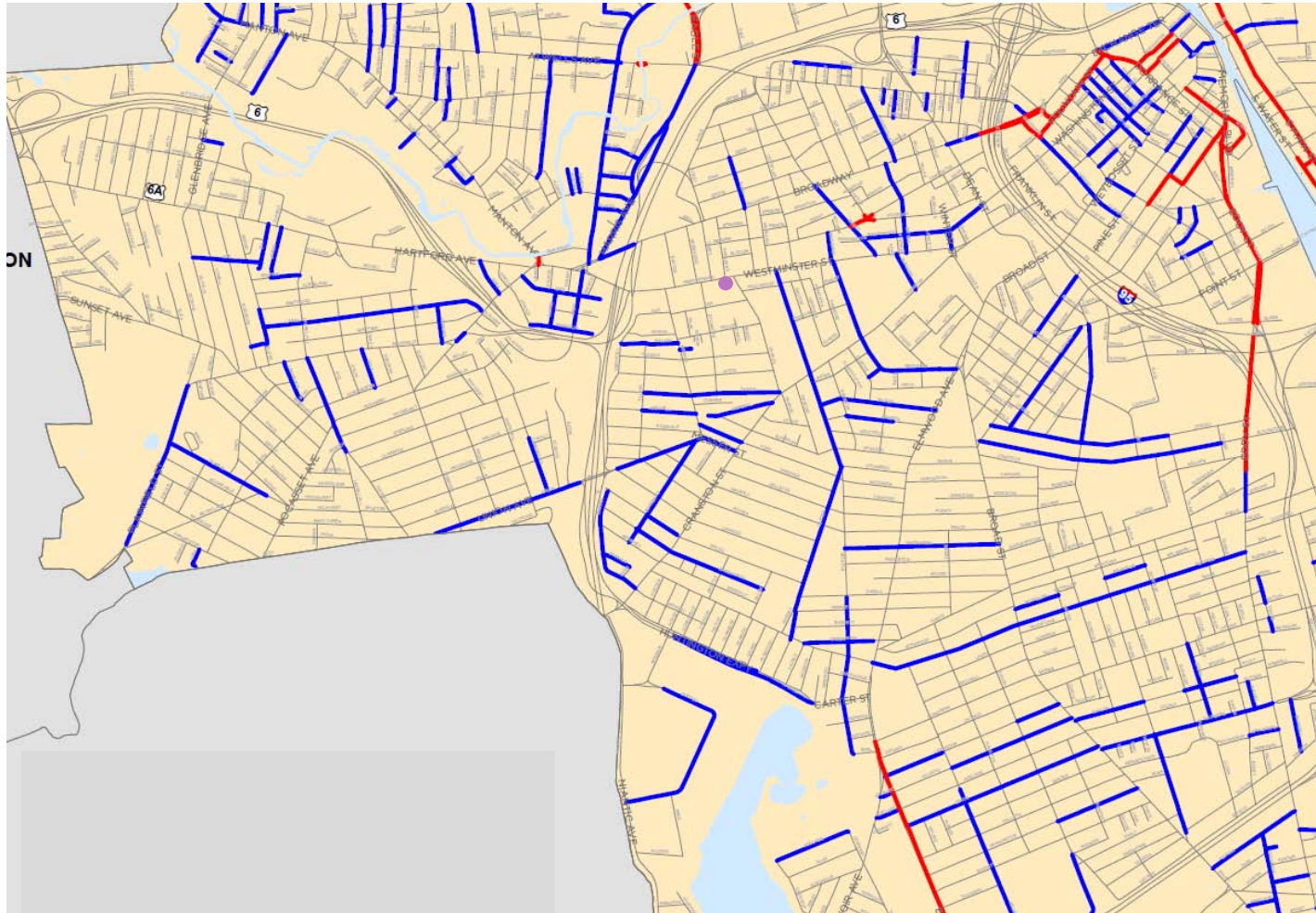
- **Infrastructure**

- Need for road maintenance, such as paving, pothole repair, and sidewalks throughout the neighborhoods
- Traffic lights should be coordinated on Broadway at De Pasquale Avenue and Battey Street
- Traffic lights or directional signs are recommended for the intersections of Cranston, Parade and Chapin at the Armory
- Repair the Arch to Federal Hill
- Solve parking issues, especially along Spruce Street. Need new locations for parking and possible structured parking to serve neighborhood residents and businesses

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
Tues. March 31	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



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS WBNA



PARKS + PLAYGROUNDS

- 1 Garbaldi Square
- 2 DePasquale Plaza
- 3 St. John's Park
- 4 Knight St. Park
- 5 Ridge St. Playground
- 6 Franciscan Park
- 7 Samuel Brigham Middle School Grounds
- 8 Dexter Training Grounds
- 9 Cranston St. Totlot
- 10 Ellery St. Park
- 11 Mansion Park
- 12 Warren Ave. Playground
- 13 Jacqueline Clements Park
- 14 Pearl St. Park
- 15 Davey Lopes Park
- 16 Alphonso St. Totlot
- 17 Salisbury St. Totlot
- 18 Mattie Smith Totlot
- 19 Bucklin Park
- 20 Waldo St. Totlot
- 21 Locust Grove Cemetery
- 22 Jennifer Rivera Memorial Park
- 23 Baxter St. Park
- 24 Harriet & Sales Park
- 25 Richardson Park
- 26 Sackett St. Park
- 27 Amos Early Park
- 28 Columbus Square
- 29 Adroene Park
- 30 JT Owens Park
- 31 Murphy-Trainer Park
- 32 Mashapaug Pond Boating Center
- 33 Roger Williams Park
- 34 Columbia Park
- 35 Drummond Field



SCHOOLS

- 1 Classical High School
- 2 Providence Career + Technical High School
- 3 Central High School
- 4 Carl G. Lauro Elementary School
- 5 Asa Messer Elementary School
- 6 Gilbert Stuart Middle School
- 7 Alfred Lima, Sr. Elementary School
- 8 Charles N. Fortes Elementary School
- 9 Leviton Dual Language Elementary School
- 10 Robert L. Bailey, IV Elementary School
- 11 Mary E. Fogarty Elementary School
- 12 The William B. Cooley, Sr. High School
- 13 Roger Williams Middle School
- 14 The Charlotte Woods Elementary School
- 15 The Sergeant Cornel Young Jr. Elementary School
- 16 Lillian Feinstein Elementary School
- 17 Dr. Jorge Alvarez High School
- 18 Reservoir Avenue School
- 19 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



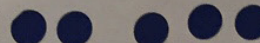
SOCIAL SERVICES FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN



AFFORDABLE HOUSING



PARKS / SPORTS / RECREATION



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS WITH

PLAYGROUNDS

- 19 Austin Park
- 20 Wade St. Toilet
- 21 Laurel Grove Cemetery
- 22 Leavelle-Arroyo Memorial Park
- 23 Baxter St. Park
- 24 Harriet & Stokes Park
- 25 Elkader Park
- 26 Sessett St. Park
- 27 Anna Early Park
- 28 Columbus Square
- 29 Adams Park
- 30 JT Owens Park
- 31 Murphy-Trainer Park
- 32 Muckelberg Feral Boating Center
- 33 Fager-Williams Park
- 34 Columbine Park
- 35 Drummond Field

SCHOOLS

- 1001 High School
- 1002 Career + Technical High School
- 1003 High School
- 1004 Lincoln Elementary School
- 1005 Marston Elementary School
- 1006 Stuart Middle School
- 1007 Lincoln St. Elementary School
- 1008 N. Foster Elementary School
- 1009 Dual Language Elementary School
- 1010 L. Rader, IV Elementary School
- 1011 E. Fagarty Elementary School
- 1012 Williams & Collins, Sr. High School
- 1013 W. Williams Middle School
- 1014 Charlotte-Woods Elementary School
- 1015 Sergeant Cornel Young Jr. Elementary School
- 1016 Paulistain Elementary School
- 1017 George Alcorn High School
- 1018 Irvine Avenue School
- 1019 Stephen F. Austin Elementary School

LIBRARIES

- 1020 College of St. Louis Center
- 1021 Memorial Library
- 1022 Providence Branch
- 1023 Logan Park Branch

SHARE OTHER ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

PLEASE SHARE OTHER ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Food Security / Access ^{Healthy} Local Food / Urban Agriculture ●

Climate Change, Environment, Green Infrastructure ●●

Bike routes / ★ ●

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ●●●●●

CITY SERVICES (SNOW PLOWING
GRAFFITI REMOVAL) ●●●●●

~~city~~ services (trash, plowing, recycling) ★

Traffic Safety (speed on parade) ●

Arts / Cultural Programs ●●

CRANSTON ST ARMORY ●



Handwritten notes on a yellow sticky note:

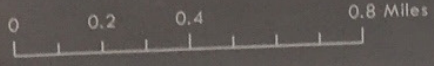
Meeting location
 1. Meeting location
 2. Meeting location
 3. Meeting location
 4. Meeting location
 5. Meeting location
 6. Meeting location
 7. Meeting location
 8. Meeting location
 9. Meeting location
 10. Meeting location
 11. Meeting location
 12. Meeting location
 13. Meeting location
 14. Meeting location
 15. Meeting location
 16. Meeting location
 17. Meeting location
 18. Meeting location
 19. Meeting location
 20. Meeting location
 21. Meeting location
 22. Meeting location
 23. Meeting location
 24. Meeting location
 25. Meeting location
 26. Meeting location
 27. Meeting location
 28. Meeting location
 29. Meeting location
 30. Meeting location
 31. Meeting location
 32. Meeting location
 33. Meeting location

Blank yellow sticky note.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS WBNA

LEGEND

- PARKS - PLAYGROUNDS**
 - 1. Gifford Green
 - 2. Gifford Park
 - 3. St. James Park
 - 4. St. James Park
 - 5. St. James Park
 - 6. St. James Park
 - 7. St. James Park
 - 8. St. James Park
 - 9. St. James Park
 - 10. St. James Park
 - 11. St. James Park
 - 12. St. James Park
 - 13. St. James Park
 - 14. St. James Park
 - 15. St. James Park
 - 16. St. James Park
 - 17. St. James Park
 - 18. St. James Park
 - 19. St. James Park
 - 20. St. James Park
 - 21. St. James Park
 - 22. St. James Park
 - 23. St. James Park
 - 24. St. James Park
 - 25. St. James Park
 - 26. St. James Park
 - 27. St. James Park
 - 28. St. James Park
 - 29. St. James Park
 - 30. St. James Park
 - 31. St. James Park
 - 32. St. James Park
 - 33. St. James Park
- SCHOOLS**
 - 1. Central High School
 - 2. Providence Center - Technical High School
 - 3. Central High School
 - 4. Central High School
 - 5. Central High School
 - 6. Central High School
 - 7. Central High School
 - 8. Central High School
 - 9. Central High School
 - 10. Central High School
 - 11. Central High School
 - 12. Central High School
 - 13. Central High School
 - 14. Central High School
 - 15. Central High School
 - 16. Central High School
 - 17. Central High School
 - 18. Central High School
 - 19. Central High School
 - 20. Central High School
 - 21. Central High School
 - 22. Central High School
 - 23. Central High School
 - 24. Central High School
 - 25. Central High School
 - 26. Central High School
 - 27. Central High School
 - 28. Central High School
 - 29. Central High School
 - 30. Central High School
 - 31. Central High School
 - 32. Central High School
 - 33. Central High School
- LIBRARIES**
 - 1. Community College of Rhode Island Campus
 - 2. South Providence Branch
 - 3. South Providence Branch
 - 4. Washington Park Branch



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS WBNA



MEETING LOCATION

plowing services
down court
streets
off of
Willow St.

excess
traffic
speed
along
parade
st.

WEST



CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

Community Conversation #3 (March 10, 2015)

WBNA

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>
	<i>Affordable Housing</i>
	<i>Drug or Alcohol Addiction</i>
3	<i>Education</i>
	<i>Homelessness</i>
	<i>Housing and Services for Persons with HIV/AIDS</i>
2	<i>Jobs / Economic Development</i>
3	<i>Parks / Sports / Recreation</i>
1	<i>Poverty</i>
	<i>Public Housing</i>
1	<i>Public Safety</i>
2	<i>Low-Quality / Unsafe / Unhealthy Housing</i>
	<i>Senior Services</i>
1	<i>Social Services for Adults and Children</i>
<i>Other:</i>	<i>Arts/cultural programs; High property taxes; inadequate city services; inadequate consumer protections; Cultural facilities; Underutilized and vacant buildings (including city and state-owned buildings); Maintenance of buildings (including city and state-owned buildings and property including parks, roads and playgrounds); Repair, preservation and reuse of the Cranston Street Armory</i>

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

- An app for the community to report problems to the city
- Follow-up meetings one-two years into the enactment of the community plan
- Assist in developing "friends groups" for community parks/recreation areas most in need
- Implement traffic calming along Marshall St from Broadway
- Prioritize sidewalk improvements



CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

- Lower property taxes to encourage ownership, investment, and reclamation of abandoned houses
- Establish penalties, such as repayment requirements, for contractors who do sub-standard work
- Support the continued investment in small developments and incentivize the success of those projects as portals to improvement in their neighborhoods
- Become an example for others to follow by better maintaining its own property and equipment (including schools, playgrounds, parks, trucks, vacant buildings).
- Involve neighborhood associations, CDCs, neighbors and businesses in creating the solutions for our problems and reporting the results.
- Better enforce our city laws such as maintaining properties and shoveling sidewalks, etc.

Additional Comments:

- Promote cultural mapping and arts activities outside of Downcity
- Invest in what we have – prioritize and incentive-“ize” historic preservation and place
- Repair and reuse underutilized and vacant buildings
- Create revolving loan fund for solar
- Create “Main Street” programs for our commercial corridors
- Create gateways at either end of Broadway and Westminster
- Open Westminster Street to downtown
- Give incentives to people who maintain their properties and increase tax rate for those who have parking lots and vacant properties
- Make it easier for our small businesses to survive and thrive
- Create a job program using traditional building techniques for homes and buildings and for roadways, landscaping etc. that can create specialized skills for use within RI and to be exported out to other cities in the country (Preservation Peace Corps, cobblestone laying, stone carving, woodwork, etc.)
- Make the Cranston Street Armory the poster child for historic preservation and sustainable technologies like wind turbines, geo-thermal, solar panels and fully utilize this magnificent building that should be a National Historic Landmark