



Let's Get to Work- Together Community Meeting
April 19, 2012 6:30-8:30pm
Joseph A. Craig, 1423 St. Phillip

Housing & Blight

How do you see your group representing the total footprint? (“How would we define success as a working group?” or “What would you see as the best measure of a successful working group?”)

- Reaching Goals – Establishing goals at the outset and then reaching those goals
- Ensuring that our voices are heard
 - Making sure that we have access to policy makers and public officials
- An action-based committee; not all talk; we want to see substance
- Communicating directly with department heads and elected officials
- Breaking down silos between public agencies, e.g. the Recovery School District and housing officials
- Creating a balanced approach to housing
 - Not all gentrification
 - Want to make sure that gentrification does not swamp the neighborhood; balance investment with preserving neighborhood character and diversity
- Save historic houses; don't just focus on infill development but make sure that historic homes are restored

What plans and ideas do you want to see implemented in 12 months, 2 years, and 5 years?

- Coexistence of mixture of housing types and affordability levels
- Recognition of non-profits
 - Building on non-profits' efforts
 - We don't have to do all work from scratch; we can build off of the data gathering and revitalization efforts of non-profits
- Bring back library on St. Bernard; other libraries have been restored; why not Nora Navra
- Drainage- St. Bernard Ave has a foot of water after a heavy rain
- Blighted structures need to be secured; even if they can't be redeveloped immediately, they must be secured to guard against public safety hazards.
- Lighting insufficient; public realm does not have sufficient lighting, particularly along St. Bernard Avenue; this is a safety hazard
- Live wires; there are dangling live wires; this is another safety hazard
- Education; we need to educate the community on the tools of fighting blight and encouraging revitalization; for instance, using the 311 system.



- E-mail and computer literacy program; also, part of education; make sure that the community has a basic level of computer literacy
- Concentrate investments and be geographically strategic
 - Work from the core outward; start with the core of the footprint and then work outward.
- Pair infrastructure and housing investments; coordinate infrastructure investments by geographical location and housing investments.
- Would like to see a movie theater in the neighborhood
- Develop St. Bernard, Orleans, and Claiborne as commercial corridors
- Less red tape and better processes for addressing blight and other concerns
- More walkability; a more walkable neighborhood generally
- Low intensity commercial within historic corner commercial buildings; would like walkable amenities like the Marigny has
- Low impact commercial
- Want the neighborhood to be a full service neighborhoods—with retail, community services, businesses, jobs
- Bring back Circle Food Store; such an important grocery store and walking distance to so much of the neighborhood
- Young people in parks; need parks and recreation for young people
- Transportation and employment; need to provide transportation to jobs

Who else needs to be at the table to achieve these goals?

- City officials
 - Code Enforcement
 - Safety and Permits
 - Numerous other city agencies
- Shaw and contractors involved in housing programs, such as
 - Home elevation
 - Road Home
- Neighborhood Groups
- Sewage and Water Board
 - Drainage and sub-surface infrastructure are key issues
- Department of Public Works
 - Everything needs repair; roads, drains, lighting, sidewalks
- Other city council members- not just District C
- Liberty Bank, as they have a blighted property on St. Bernard Avenue
- NORA
- RSD and OPSB
- Builders of Hope; there are still blighted houses that they own
- Providence



- Small Business Owners in the area

Key Issues that Repeatedly Arose

- Eradicating blight
- Expediting blight removal- 7 years is too long; it's been 7 years!
- Question of HUD requirements for community outreach; what are the statutory requirements for community outreach for this kind of initiative? What does HUD require?
- Minimizing gentrification
- Blight working teams within the trapezoid; are there already groups focusing on blight within the footprint?
- What will the Iberville Site look like? What do the plans envision?
- Concerns if the mixed income approach is working. Does this approach actually work?
- Balance of commercial and residential
- Iberville not Tremé? Why have efforts focused on Iberville so far and not Tremé?
- Specifics about outcomes needed; residents need more information about what outcome is desired before committing to a housing working team.
- More information regarding processes; more information about the working team process is needed before people commit to it.
- E-mail out the agenda for the next meeting of the working team; they want a specific agenda and some want to talk about specific proposals for mixed income buildings.
- How do we invest strategically in the area?
- Goal: get you accurate information; they want accurate information from the working teams.