



Public Safety Working Group

Assets, Opportunities & Challenges

Introduction

The Public Safety Working Group (known herein, as the “Working Group”) of the Junction-McClinton Nunn (known herein, as “JMN”) Choice Neighborhoods Plan (known herein, as the “Plan”) was tasked with identifying assets, opportunities and challenges within the JMN neighborhood, specifically as they relate to public safety. Neighborhood residents collaborated with city administration and public safety personnel, who respond and provide resources for non-emergency and critical incidents in the JMN neighborhood and surrounding area. The Working Group provides expertise for considerations and practical solutions related to stakeholder concerns about public safety in conjunction with crime reduction, transportation, and education.

To identify assets, opportunities and challenges, the Public Safety Working Group reviewed and discussed neighborhood concerns that were consistent with findings discovered from various following sources, including:

- LMN Community Profile Data
- Toledo Blade/local news media articles
- Toledo Design Collective efforts (“Junction Neighborhood Master Plan”)
- Toledo Fire & Rescue concerns
- Code Enforcement efforts (historical reference)
- Toledo Police Crime Reports
- Toledo Mayor’s Initiative to Reduce Gun Violence Community Conversations
- Toledo Police Department’s Community Relations Engagement Survey

Assets, Opportunities & Challenges

The Working Group’s members agree that the JMN neighborhood is well-located and sits in close proximity to major interstates, with easy access to major and minor arterial streets. A challenge exists to provide essential services, employment opportunities, youth programming, and aesthetics to improve JMN residents’ quality of life.

The JMN neighborhood, west of Division Street past the McClinton Nunn Homes between Dorr and Hamilton Streets, struggles with environmental and socioeconomic variables and opportunities related to tangible resources, i.e., lighting; tree and lot overgrowth; vacant

structures; street paving; traffic flow; employment; service; wellness; blight; nuisance/code enforcement.

Investment in the Plan includes the Working Group's recommendations to attempt to change the narrative of the JMN neighborhood by creating partnerships through engagement and ownership by current and potential area residents and prospective business owners; representatives from Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH); Toledo Police; Toledo Fire & Rescue; and the City of Toledo, which enjoys a resurgence from a recently renewed economy.

Consensus Public Safety and Crime Reduction/Education/Transportation Assets, Opportunities, and Challenges

Assets

- Mott Branch Library, 1010 Dorr St.
- Family House, 669 Indiana St.
- Frederick Douglass Community Association, 1001 Indiana Ave.
- Area churches
 - Church of Christ Glass City, Universal Holiness, Southern Missionary Baptist, Warren AME, St. Paul AME Zion, True Church of God Sanctified, Faith Way Church of God-Christ, People's Missionary Baptist, Resurrection Baptist, Charity Baptist, etc.,.
- Area schools
 - Ella P. Stewart Academy, 707 Avondale St.
 - Martin Luther King Academy, 1300 Forest Ave.
 - Picket Academy, 1144 Blum St.
 - Jones Leadership Academy. 430 Nebraska Ave.
- Dorr/Collingwood Neighborhood Shopping Center, 551 Dorr St.
- J. Frank Troy Senior Center, 545 Indiana Ave.
- USPS Post Office, 1609 Dorr St.
- Brenntag North America business development (formerly Kraft-Heinz Foods Warehouse, 1411 Campbell St.)
- Access to I-75/475 interstates

Opportunities

- Support existing local businesses within the LMN neighborhood, encourage reinvestment by suggesting aesthetic façade improvements via grant funding
- Concessionary financing for new businesses locating in the area (tax abatements)
 - Access to policing services (security)
 - Create partnerships with local, regional and national commercial developers interested in the revitalization of the downtown Toledo area due to the proximity of the JMN neighborhood
 - Promedica involvement
- Create situations to increase engagement and collaboration between vested JMN neighborhood residents and stakeholders

Challenges

- Limited to no access to grocery (e.g., fresh food sources); primary care; pharmacy, etc., for JMN residents
 - Attempt to attract a major grocery chain to the LMN neighborhood/adjacent area for new build or to renovate existing structure
 - Dorr/Collingwood Neighborhood Shopping Plaza
 - Site of the former Libbey High School
 - Former Erie Street Market site
 - Location is ideal to service both the LMN neighborhood and downtown area
 - Location provides access to I-75,475; provide amenities (pharmacy, gas station, auto repair) because surrounding area offers none, if 1201 Dorr St. gas station (Mobil) closes
 - Open comprehensive medical clinic at the previous site of the Mott Library
 - Solicit medical students/volunteer practitioners via the University of Toledo-Medical College (UTMC)
 - Recommendation to build a new fire station to replace antiquated Station 16 in the JMN neighborhood with a new building
 - Adequate space to stage, turn around multiple vehicles is very limited, confining
 - Centrally located to JMN neighborhood, on Dorr St., across from Smith Park
 - Location could be used as a centralized meeting place for the community, to utilize administrative and green space as a campus training center, for instructional and recreation programs
 - Fire station and EMS resource staging/instruction facility
 - Host LMN Neighborhood block watch meetings
 - Host LMN Neighborhood community events (i.e., blood drives, race/walks
 - Electronic message board to announce current events, explain how changes to LMN neighborhood/community will proceed
 - Neutral site meeting space
 - Playground area/sporting events
- Rising home prices, area stagnation due to private investment
 - Recommendation to contact existing property owners; request cooperation, collaboration, for JMN neighborhood improvement
 - Hire independent contractors to repair, alter, or remove debris from alleys, properties
 - Signage posted throughout JMN neighborhood to declare community investment, appreciation and encouragement for JMN neighborhood residents to engage, participate, to take ownership of their neighborhood
 - Clearly marked streets; upgrade electronic signage at street crosswalks

- Aging residential and commercial buildings with environmental, and/or structural concerns; vacant properties (some intersections with no structures on the streets' corners) comprise 60% of the JMN neighborhood
 - Recommendation to request the city's Land Bank to assess commercial and residential structures in the JMN neighborhood
 - Remove blight and overgrown lots/areas; demolish dilapidated, unsafe commercial and residential structures
 - Create blight committee for JMN neighborhood to enforce blight control
 - Invite public, media to meetings to learn details and encourage buy-in
 - Grant funding to provide for resources to clean up properties
 - Media campaign to highlight blight cleanup efforts, identify blight properties and remiss property owners
 - Request for city's Building Inspections/Code Enforcement offices to inspect, provide recommendations to structures' fitness
 - Hire independent contractors to repair, alter, or remove, if declared unfit
 - Hire independent contractors to remove trees, shrubbery that contribute to blight, and gives JMN neighborhood a rundown appearance
 - Support from Toledo Municipal Court (Housing) for legal removal when no response is received, owners not local, or management companies involved
 - Plan (3-5 years) to acquire abandoned property via civil judgment
 - Grant funding allows for wages to pay participants to beautify the area; bill owners not doing their part because city maintains property for them
 - Strategically place trash collection/recycle bins at selected points within the LMN neighborhood with signage to indicate legal deposits for collection
 - Watchdogs (JMN neighborhood volunteers; TPD/TFRD personnel) maintain vigilance over sites to ensure regular collection, to encourage steady deposits
- Selective streets and alleys within the JMN neighborhood are difficult to pass
 - Recommendation for repaving for city streets in and around the JMN neighborhood, notably Division Street, between Dorr St. and Nebraska Ave., Campbell St. area
 - Decommission hazardous alleyways pending interventions
- Lighting for JMN neighborhood is inadequate
 - Recommendation to improve/more lighting/LED lighting in high traffic areas to add visibility and safety for travel, and to discourage illegal dumping
 - Brown Ave., between Buckingham and Woodland
 - Pinewood St., (entire length, from Brown Ave., to Division St.)
 - Sterling Park, 99 Center St.; excessive dumping
 - Klondike St., King St., Campbell St. (construction site for Brenntag, former Chemtrade site); all excessive dumping
 - Decorative lighting along residential sidewalks enhances ambiance, aesthetics of area, for residents.
- Difficulty to overcome the stigma of being considered "affordable", as part of a mixed-income strategy

- Recommendation to infuse a mixture of housing into the JMN neighborhood without triggering gentrification
- Contact Habitat for Humanity for interest in development
- Contact realty group to market new construction
- Existing workforce within the community lacks the skills needed to obtain better paying jobs; a need exists to provide training to residents and support new businesses seeking to locate within the JMN neighborhood
 - Recommendation to provide adult education resources
 - Locate and renovate a location
 - Campbell St. location is a possibility, depending on what on current planning
- Solicit specific businesses to assist in offering training for specific for LMN neighborhood residents to learn new skills and apply for work in area near their homes
- Recommendation to incentivize participation, instill community pride
 - LMN Ambassadors
 - Paid, onsite 24-7 JMN neighborhood property maintainers, to reinvest in itself by providing wages for services
 - Childcare services for LMN neighborhood meeting attendees
 - Youth services program, for beautification efforts designed to enhance aesthetics of JMN neighborhood, adjacent area streets
 - Lawn maintenance, lot upkeep; measurable, beautification progress
- A lack of access to educational resources for homeowners, i.e., pre-purchase and post-purchase, to include maintenance and repair responsibilities, to provide real ownership
 - Recommendation to create digital/online/hard copy community guide, as a referral “cheat sheet” list of service providers for JMN neighborhood residents, to enhance access to services, and improve their quality of life
 - Parental guidance and supervision of youth cited; establish partnership with Pathway, The Hoper Center/Center of Hope for family-social and mental health services, with education centered on interventions to reduce violence in the home, i.e., parenting, finances, marriage/relationship counseling, etc.,
- Existing small businesses in the JMN neighborhood must buy into the vision by being present, participate, and take ownership, to help improve their businesses
 - Recommendation to prepare and distribute community survey to JMN neighborhood residents/business owners to identify and prioritize needs
 - Establish a baseline of LMN neighborhood’s residents to measure desires for resources, community engagement, and police response, to increase police-community relations
- A shortage of community policing programs
 - Recommendation to acquire office space for city’s violence interrupters centralized within LMN neighborhood; locate vacant location to renovate.
 - Location could be multipurpose space, for numerous community functions
 - Toledo Fire needs to replace antiquated Fire Station 16
 - Increase participation by engaging LMN neighborhood residents to participate
 - Identifying and engaging key youth to influence others

- Recommendation to provide de-escalation training because skills are not inherent if not introduced to, previously
 - 100 % of shootings occur as a result of escalated arguments
 - Youth must value their own lives, first, to be able to value others
- Expand Police Athletic League (PAL) programming options and hours of operation via creation of location in LMN neighborhood (Station 16?)
 - Increase output of evidence-based programs, i.e., Brains and Body, Books B4 Hoops, Polished Emeralds, sports teams, etc., after school and on weekends that is designed to instill commitment, discipline, and leadership to empower youth and prepare them for future employment, and more
- Create mentoring program similar to PS419 where TPD officers partner with JMN neighborhood youth to increase awareness of public safety, build relationships, and increase trust, in support of the community; spurred interest to pursuing careers as officers, fire personnel to increase diversity and cultural competency
- Attempt to reduce violent crime
 - Recommendation to increase police presence
 - LMN neighborhood residents in and around the area are concerned most with crimes that occur closest to them but not as concerned by gang activity, a product of familiarity with known persons already engaging in it. So it is critical that efforts include making TPD more visible via an increase in programs that encourage and promote police-citizen interactions in as many forms as possible to disseminate information, and improve communication about community satisfaction, to better respond to efforts that reduce the fear of crime and to improve community perceptions of TPD's efforts
 - Hire off-duty TPD officers to work in the LMN neighborhood and surrounding area during evening/overnight hours
 - Hire more TPD officers to investigate violent crimes that affect LMN neighborhood specifically related to firearms
 - Reinvigorate block watches and/or regular community meetings for LMN neighborhood and surrounding area; recruit LMN neighborhood residents to become block watch leaders

Summary

The storied history of the Junction neighborhood in conjunction to its central location within the community makes the McClinton Nunn Homes a neighborhood of choice for Toledo residents. The identified challenges are historical sources of discouragement for LMN neighborhood families and local businesses seeking to establish themselves in the community.

By following the Working Group's consensus-based Plan recommendations, the opportunity exists to develop a comprehensive approach to JMN neighborhood reinvestment. JMN neighborhood residents, as human capital, are its most valuable resource and are instrumental in any community's effort for residential growth. By engaging JMN neighborhood residents to

take ownership, participate and become more engaged, while providing ample access to services and opportunities found in thriving communities will help JMN achieve its goals.