

Neighborhood Quality of Life and Revitalization Council Committee

**Tuesday, January 24, 2012
3:00 PM**

**Harry E. Mitchell Government Center
Third Floor Conference Room
31 East Fifth Street
Tempe, AZ 85281**

AGENDA

Chair: Vice Mayor Joel Navarro

Call to Order

1. Public Appearances – The committee welcomes public comment. According to the Arizona Open Meeting Law, the Committee may only discuss matters listed on the agenda. Matters brought up by the public under public appearances that are not listed on the agenda cannot be discussed by the Committee. A 3-minute limit per person will be in effect.
2. Review of Minutes: November 22, 2011 Neighborhood Quality of Life & Revitalization Committee
3. Alley Ordinance Update – John Osgood and Mary Helen Giustizia, Public Works
4. Update - Escalante Community Garden Project – Keith Burke, Community Services and Beth Fiorenza and Stephen Sparks, Tempe Community Action Agency
5. Neighborhood Revitalization Program, Lisa Collins and Larry Schmalz, Community Development
6. Council Committee List of Accomplishments – Amber Wakeman, Community Relations
7. Future Agenda Items
8. Future Meeting Date – February 28, 2012 (Fourth Tuesday of the month) at 3:00 p.m.
9. Announcements

The City of Tempe endeavors to make all public meetings accessible to persons with disabilities. With 72 hours advance notice, special assistance can also be provided for sight and/or hearing impaired persons at public meetings. Please call 350-2905 (voice) or 350-2750 (TDD) to request an accommodation to participate in this meeting.



**Minutes
Neighborhood Quality of Life and Revitalization
Council Committee
November 22, 2011**

Minutes of the Neighborhood Quality of Life and Revitalization Council Committee meeting held on Tuesday, November 22, 2011, at 3:00 p.m., in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Committee Member Present:

Vice Mayor Joel Navarro, Chair

City Staff Present:

Kay Savard, Deputy City Clerk

Amber Wakeman, Assistant to the City Council

Amanda Nelson, Community Outreach Marketing Supervisor

Tanya Chavez, Community Outreach Marketing Coordinator

Lisa Collins, Deputy Community Development Director – Planning

Shelley Hearn, Community Relations Admin.

Robert Yabes, Principal Planner

Vincent Boerbon, Police Lieutenant

Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager

Guests Present:

Stephanie Salazar, Arizona State University (ASU)

Vice Mayor Navarro called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None.

Agenda Item 2 – Review of Minutes

The October 25, 2011 Neighborhood Quality of Life and Revitalization meeting minutes were accepted.

Agenda Item 3 – Right-of-Way Prioritization Process

Lisa Collins, Deputy Community Development Director – Planning, provided an update on the right-of-way and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) prioritization process based on grant funding available, as follows:

- On September 8, 2011, the City Council questioned how grant funds were prioritized.
- Public Works, Community Services, and Community Development staff analyzed how grants were being prioritized, which projects should be eligible for grants and established grant criteria
- Staff intends to provide City Council with an annual comprehensive process detailing projects recommended to be moved forward and which grants will be pursued, particularly on projects that have not been approved in the CIP; flow chart of events and participants will be prepared.
- Staff will return to the Committee with an update in January 2012
- Staff will provide a presentation concerning right-of-way maintenance-related issues, budget and prioritization to the Committee at a future meeting.

Agenda Item 2.

Agenda Item 4 – Broadway Road Update

Lisa Collins, Deputy Community Development Director – Planning, and Robert Yabes, Principal Planner, provided an update regarding Broadway Road improvements between Rural Road and Mill Avenue. Presentation and discussion highlights include:

- Project History:
 - Comprehensive Transportation Plan
 - Community Design Dialogues
 - Identified Issues for Project Area: safety, bike and pedestrian improvements, noise, cut-through traffic, retain community character
 - Initial discussions began in 2000
 - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds secured in 2005
 - Design process began in winter 2009
 - Broadway Road Action Team (BRAT) created
 - Design concept developed
- Public Involvement
 - 4 Broadway Road Action Team meetings (BRAT)
 - 3 Neighborhood/public meetings
 - 1 Broadway Road walk
- Public Comments – various comments received and reviewed
- Business Public Outreach
 - May 2010 business outreach
 - Met with property owners
 - Median restricts business access
 - Streetscape with median may increase traffic speeds
 - U-turns at College will be dangerous
 - Concerned with trees covering property signage
 - Traffic for business will cut through neighborhoods
- Project Goals
 - Reduce traffic noise
 - Protect community character
 - Improve safety
 - Provide bicycle lanes
 - Provide sidewalks
 - Retain Broadway Lane
 - Improve streetscape character
 - Discourage cut-through traffic
 - Address congestion
- Project Funding Source/Requirement
 - Add bike and pedestrian amenities on Broadway Road between Mill Avenue and Rural Road while improving streetscape
 - \$3.17 million project for the design and construction of bikeways and pedestrian facilities along the corridor. Federal CMAQ funds: \$2.57 million; Transit fund: \$600,000 required match
 - Approved CIP
- Proposed and alternative lane configurations (2&2 and 2&3) were displayed
- It has not yet been determined whether or not the wall is eligible for funding
- There is adequate right-of-way for the 2 & 2 lane configuration, but not the 3 & 2 lane configuration; lane configuration will depend upon the amount of right-of-way available.
- Business owners are in agreement with the installation of medians
- The proposed landscape palette of desert plants was displayed. Vice Mayor Navarro expressed concern that the landscaping should reflect the character of the neighborhood.
- Concern was raised about having landscaping with roots too close to the wall.
- This right-of-way project will showcase how these types of projects can be done well.
- Artwork on hardscape areas is included.

- Wall height and details are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant.
- A final design proposal will be brought to the City Council in January 2012.
- Project Schedule:
 - Design notice to proceed – May 4, 2010
 - Right-of-Way acquisition – February 2012
 - Final design plans complete – May 2012
 - Environmental clearance – June 2012
 - Obligation – August 2012
 - Construction – January 2013 (8-12 months)
- Staff will research landscaping alternatives for this project

Agenda Item 5– Future Agenda Items

- Broadway Road project update

Agenda Item 6 - Future Meeting Date

The next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

Agenda Item 7- Announcements

None.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Reviewed by Amber Wakeman, Assistant to City Council

Kay Savard, Deputy City Clerk

Memorandum

City of Tempe



Date: January 18, 2012
To: Neighborhood Quality of Life and Revitalization Council Committee
From: John Osgood, Deputy Public Works Director
Giustizia, Mary Helen, Solid Waste Services Manager
Subject: Proposed Solid Waste Alley Ordinance

The purpose of this memo is to provide the Committee an update regarding the city's proposed Solid Waste alley ordinance.

Background

Over the last several months, staff has been working to develop an alley ordinance that addresses issues that have become increasingly challenging for the City to manage, and which have diminished the quality of life for neighborhoods. The proposed alley ordinance seeks to eliminate undesirable activities in alleys and remove negative elements that bring down the appeal, character, and safety of a neighborhood.

Currently, some areas where solid waste collection is provided in alleys present challenges due to pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Some of the most common problems that the City is called to address involve trespassing on private property, breaking and entering, illicit activity, illegal dumping, destruction of private property, graffiti, loitering/people sleeping in cardboard beds, and a number of other activities that make for an unsafe environment for neighborhoods. Typically, Police Officers or Solid Waste inspectors respond to calls from residents, or happen upon these situations while making their daily rounds. While City staff do their best to clean up the alleys from the trash left behind by violators, it is difficult to prevent them from returning and repeating the offenses due to the lack of available legal recourse.

Objectives of the Ordinance

This alley ordinance seeks to provide that recourse. Staff from Solid Waste Services, the Police Department, the Prosecutor's Office, and the City Attorney's Office has been drafting a solid waste ordinance to address these issues in alleys. The ordinance would enable the City to regulate activity in the alleys by prohibiting individuals who have no reasonable cause to be in the alley.

The goals of the ordinance are to:

- Establish language in the Solid Waste Code that sets the foundation to provide for enforcement over non-desirable activities in alleys
- Accomplish control over high-activity areas
- Improve health and safety conditions in alleys and the overall quality of life in neighborhoods
- Improve operational efficiencies by reducing the number of callouts due to illegal alley activities

Summary

The proposed ordinance would strengthen city staff's ability to regulate activities in alleys, and improve the health, safety, and quality of life of the city's residents and employees. The draft alley ordinance should be finalized within the next few weeks. Staff will be prepared to review the draft at the February meeting of the Neighborhood Quality of Life and Revitalization Council Committee.

Escalante Community Garden

10 Month Update



Arizona Hunger Issues

- Arizona ranks 38th in the U.S. with 23 percent of children living in poverty.¹
- Arizona is the 7th worst state in food hardships for families with children. Nearly 30% report food insecurity.²

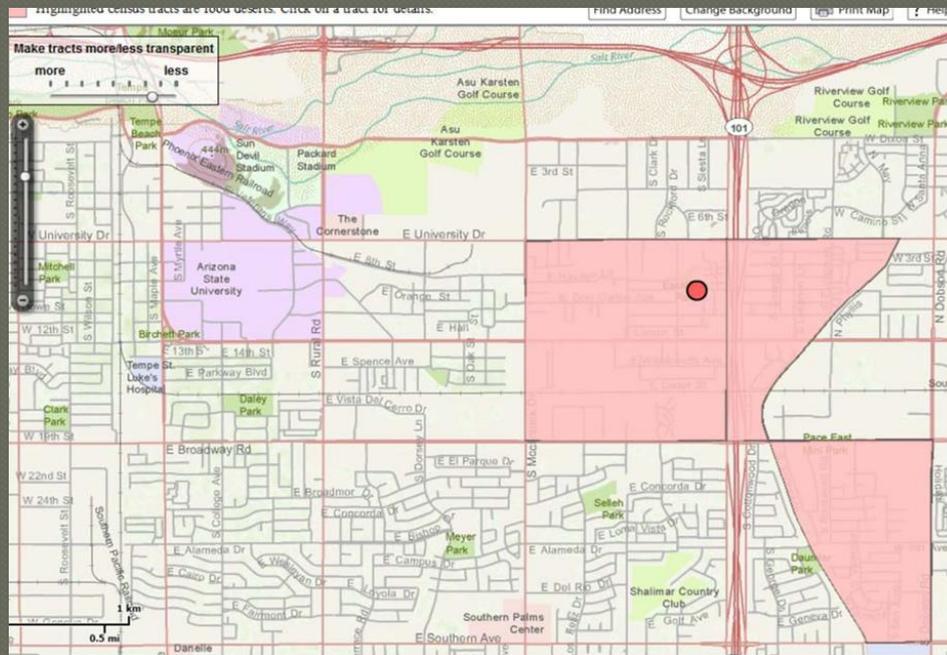


1. U.s Census Data

2. Food Action and Research Center (FRAC). (2011 Report)

Food Desert

- Defined by high poverty rates and low food access*.
- Despite historically having multiple food stores, Escalante and Victory Acres is currently only served by convenience stores and gas stations.

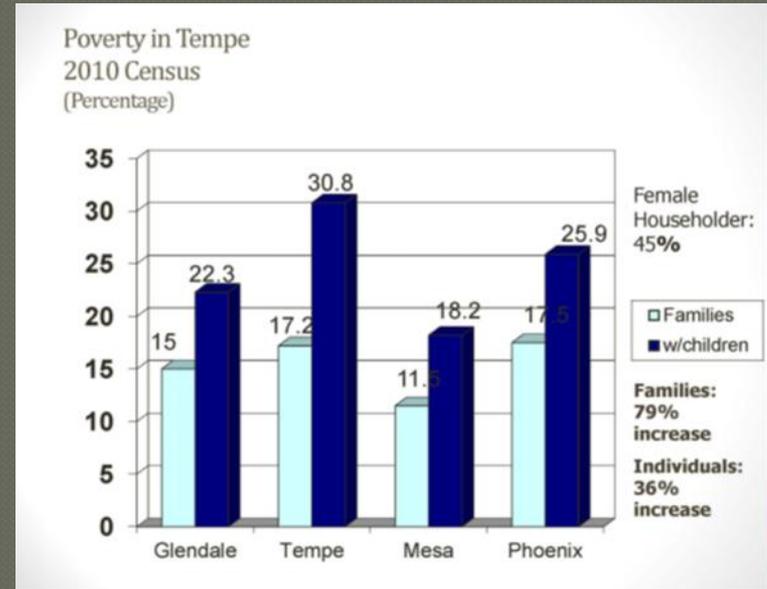


*USDA definition of food desert:

- To qualify as a “low-income community,” a census tract must have either: 1) a poverty rate of 20 percent or higher, OR 2) a median family income at or below 80 percent of the area's median family income;
- To qualify as a “low-access community,” at least 500 people and/or at least 33 percent of the census tract's population must reside more than one mile from a supermarket or large grocery store (for rural census tracts, the distance is more than 10 miles).

Why a garden is the answer:

- 76% of Escalante neighborhood is rental housing*.
 - The national average is 33.8%.
- 93% percent of Thew Elementary students are on the free or reduced lunch program.
 - The national average is 50%



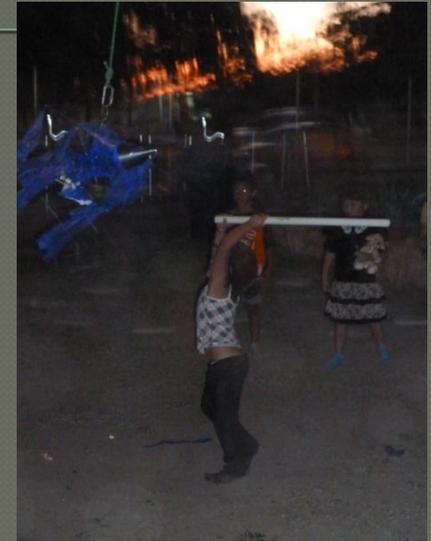
* 2010 Census tract data

Community Interest

- The garden currently has 30 official members.
- Our contact list for events includes 140 community members.
- Since June, members of the community and volunteer groups have worked over 1,100 hours in the garden.



Community Events



- Bi-monthly potlucks
- GAIN Block Party
- Corporate Group Projects
- Summer Youth Activities
- Fall Planting Sessions
- Weekly Cooking Classes

Business Support

- ◉ Sunbelt rentals donated \$750 of store credit for equipment and tool rentals.
- ◉ Sunflower Market has provided food scraps for our compost pile.
- ◉ Singh Farms has donated 16 sq. yds. Of compost
- ◉ Home Depot donated rental equipment
- ◉ Phoenix fencing provided the fencing for our garden at cost.
- ◉ Humble seeds donated seeds.

Produce output

- 1st season: 400 lbs
(200 lbs to the Food Pantry)
- 2nd season: 1,000 lbs
(500 lbs to the Food Pantry)

Our produce has been divided among garden members and the TCAA food pantry. (Some produce is also used in the TCAA Cooking Classes.)



What has been growing in the Garden!

- Chard
- Arugula
- Lettuce
- Scallions
- Peppers
- Carrots
- Turnips
- Beets
- Peaches
- Okra
- Mustard Greens
- Snap Peas
- Garlic



- Jerusalem Artichokes
- Cabbage
- Radishes
- Onions
- Cilantro
- Cumin
- Leeks
- Collard Greens
- Pumpkins
- Sweet Potatoes
- Nappa Cabbage
- Basil
- Strawberries



Future plans



- Continue working with Thew Elementary to create a curriculum combining environmental stewardship, nutrition, and ecological concepts.
- Maximize production in available space in the garden.
- Working with Valley Permaculture Alliance to provide tours and workshops at the garden.
- Create a farmers market to provide a source for healthy food in the community.

Current Needs

- Secure tool shed
 - Truck
 - Assorted hand tools
 - Volunteers
 - Financial donations
-
- TCAA is eligible for the Working Poor Tax Credit and donations can be designated for the Escalante Community Garden.



How to get involved

Blog

The Escalante Community Garden

Monday, October 3, 2011

A new garden member spotlight

Those of you at the next workday will meet our new member at the garden. His name is Fred and he is currently guarding the pumpkin patch. Fred's maker is a local artist named Alexi Devilliers, many of you may have seen his work near the corner of Lemon and Smith. Although Alexi has built a robot army that could rival most evil geniuses, he is quite friendly and gladly gave us a tour of this workshop. His backyard contains a variety of works including some that plug in and move. All of these creations are constructed from reused materials, most notably old cans. One impressive part of Alexi's work is how he obtains these cans. Alexi has been giving out free food at the local parks. "...every Saturday my wife and I get up at 5:30am to cook 100-125 hot and fresh meals." He takes his work seriously too. When asked what he

Current Garden Hours:
 Monday: 7am-6pm
 Tuesday: 7am-6pm
 Wednesday: 7am-6pm
 Thursday: 7am-6pm
 Friday: 7am-2pm
 Saturday: 7am-11am
 Sunday: Closed

Things to Check Out
[Home](#)
[Wish List](#)
[Twitter](#)
[Facebook](#)

Followers
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Facebook

facebook

The Escalante Community Garden

Neighborhood · Gardener · Community Organization · Tempe, Arizona

Wall The Escalante Community Garden · Everyone (Most Recent)

Share: Status Photo Link Video Question

Write something...

Nathan Miller
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Notes-By-Note-Creating-Edible-and-Wildlife-Attractive-Landscapes/22825929544331>
Notes By Note: Creating Edible and Wildlife Attractive Landscapes
 "Sustaining Hunger and Saving Habitats"
 Page: 246 like this

The Escalante Community Garden
 Thanks to Medtronic for volunteering at the garden! Combined your group worked close to 100 hours last Friday.
 293 Impressions · 0.36% Feedback
 Like · Comment · Share · Monday at 12:06pm

260 like this

5 talking about this

61

Current hours in the garden:

Monday: 7am-6pm
 Tuesday: 7am-6pm
 Wednesday: 7am-6pm
 Thursday: 7am-6pm
 Friday: 7am-2pm
 Saturday: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday
 Sunday: Closed

Email: nealw@tempeaction.org
 Phone: 480-350-5830

Questions?



Combating Poverty...Empowering People
www.tempeaction.org

Memorandum

City of Tempe



Date: December 6, 2011

To: Neighborhood Quality of Life and Revitalization Council Committee

From: Larry Schmalz, Principal Planner, Neighborhood Revitalization and Redevelopment

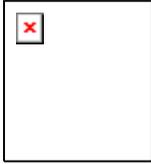
CC: Lisa Collins, Deputy Director Community Development Department

Subject: Neighborhood Revitalization Program

The City staff is currently developing a Neighborhood Revitalization Program. The programs goal is to help stabilize struggling neighborhoods. The program will focus our CDBG and HOME programs (acquisition, rehabilitation, demolition and down payment assistance) in designated neighborhoods. The program will allow us to focus our limited funding resources and staff time in specific areas and provide a greater benefit to the neighborhoods. We would anticipate the program to include only two to three neighborhoods at any one time. The criteria that we would utilize to consider a neighborhood for consideration for inclusion into the program include a combination of the following:

- Within eligible census tracts
- Within established redevelopment areas
- Areas with higher foreclosure rates
- Areas with higher incidents of code violations
- Areas with higher incidents of criminal activity
- Proximity to high quality transit service
- Sites of opportunity to remove slum & blight
- Areas where we are already active.

We welcome any additional input and direction from the committee regarding the proposed Neighborhood Revitalization Program.



Neighborhood Quality of Life & Revitalization Council Committee

Work Plan List of Accomplishments

Chair: Vice Mayor Joel Navarro

Address neighborhood park rehabilitation and maintenance efforts. Work plan should include, with neighborhood and business-community participation, oversight of

- development, implementation, coordination and assessment of neighborhood parks, streets, alleys and rights of way maintenance efforts, including volunteer efforts;
 - Continued assessment and prioritization of pavement infrastructure utilizing road matrix program.
 - Replacement of the entire sports lighting system at Diablo Stadium, plus improved lighting in the west Stadium parking lot;
 - Leveling of the Diablo Stadium infield, and improvements/repairs to the Diablo Stadium field drainage system;
 - Completed the testing of all steel sports lighting poles at the various City sports fields, and have begun addressing the pole replacements and other issues identified in the reports.
 - Replacement of the electrical SES and controls at the Benedict Sports Complex;
 - Begun the design of the Kiwanis Park ballfields sports lighting system replacement (Replacement of 2 of the 4 fields lighting systems planned for Summer, 2012;
 - Structural issue discovered in the Kiwanis Park Fiesta Ramadas will be resolved beginning in January, 2012. In addition, at the same time ADA accessibility to the southern half of the ramadas will also be addressed, and the northern half of the ramadas will be addressed in a second phase in 2012-13.
 - Renovated the restrooms at Jaycee & Papago Parks, and brought them into ADA accessibility compliance;
 - Renovated the Jaycee Park Splash Playground.

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- enforcement and assessment of commercial property enhancement codes and neighborhood enhancement and rental housing codes, including working with Arizona State University (ASU), the Tempe Chamber of Commerce, and the Arizona Multi-housing Association to educate students, businesses and landlords about these codes;
 - Conducted good neighbor, code and public safety education at off campus student housing events
 - Implemented Back to School education campaign
 - Creating vacant housing collateral material and held a workshop on the issue

- assist ASU's efforts to improve student housing at ASU and address those efforts' impact on neighborhoods;
 - Conducted good neighbor, code and public safety education at off campus student housing events
 - Implemented Back to School education campaign
 - i. Creating vacant housing collateral material and held a workshop on the issue
 - ii. ASU Fall and Spring Housing Fair (city staff and PD attended provided resources)
 - iii. Work with City of Tempe staff (PD, Code Compliance, and Neighborhood Services) on a monthly basis through our newly formed TASC Group to discuss neighborhood issues/concerns.
 - Work with PD and Tempe Community on off-campus student behavioral issues.
 - Work with City of Tempe Apartment Communities to educate students and address behavioral concerns.

- development, implementation and assessment of programs to improve, maintain and reconstruct streets and alleys;
 - Reconstructed 28,000 lineal feet of alleys.
 - Currently in-process of awarding contracts for the following street projects:
 - Reconstruction of Hardy Dr. between Southern Ave and Broadway Rd
 - Intersection reconstruction improvements at University Dr. and 52nd St and University Dr. and Hardy Dr.
 - Pavement rehabilitation of neighborhood streets between Lakeshore Dr and Rural Rd, Southern Ave to the US60.
 - Mill and overlay of McClintock Dr. between Apache Blvd and University Dr.

- development, implementation and assessment of programs to eradicate graffiti;
 - Configured Tempe311 system for graffiti calls, which provides an automated tracking system and standardized response times.
 - Maintained 24-hour response time to eradicate graffiti in the public right-of-way.
 - Piloted implementation of wireless communication system unit to allow quicker response to graffiti calls received by call center.
 - Worked with 311 call center to provide single point of contact for all graffiti calls.

- development, implementation and assessment of programs to enhance and maintain city and private landscaping requirements;
 - For the private landscaping requirements, Community Development is proceeding on the store front improvement program which has a component that would address landscape where needed.
 - Initiated Adopt-a-Path program. Adopted ROW/pathways to date include segments of the Crosscut, Kyrene, and Western canals.
 - Developed element of downtown landscape program that resulted in council decision to specify the Ficus tree as the required street tree on Mill Avenue in downtown Tempe.
 - Initiated interdepartmental effort to develop design guidelines for arterial street re-vegetation efforts.

- development and implementation of programs to encourage rehabilitation of neighborhood shopping centers and neighborhood-supportive business districts in conjunction with the Technology, Economic and Community Development Council Committee;
 - The draft Storefront Improvement Program has been developed with the goals of assisting commercial property and business owners in rehabilitating their storefronts, revitalizing neighborhood commercial areas, eliminating blight and code violations, and enhancing the livability of surrounding neighborhoods.
 - data has been mapped to identify key areas for improvement, considering code violations, graffiti, crime, sign violations, missing and dead landscape, and aging structures.
 - the city-wide program is applied to the entire city for commercial and strip centers over 10 years old
 - a more specific version of the SIP is targeted in CDBG-eligible tracts and in the Apache Redevelopment District; city staff is working with HUD to finalize the documents required; city will use CDBG funds to

Agenda Item 6.

- provide a 50% match of owner's funds on qualified projects
 - additional funding may be possible by pursuing grants
 - a staff task team will involve representatives from many departments and divisions to assist and support the program
 - an initial "beta test site" will be selected in early spring to test assumptions and process
 - official program will follow council approval (summer 2012)
- public safety initiatives for neighborhoods, traffic enforcement to reduce neighborhood speeding and cut-through traffic, enforcement of the loud-party ordinance and other neighborhood focused public safety programs; and
 - Implemented Back to School education campaign
 - The Police Department has increased its effectiveness toward the enforcement of the loud-party ordinance by collaborating with ASU to reduce ASU student generated violations. In addition, Council recently approved an amendment to the Loud Party Ordinance that expanded accountability of underage drinking to include the social host.
 - **Continued use of SEMS Unit** - The Selective Enforcement Motor Squad has responded to 78 citizen generated complaints thus far in 2011, the vast majority of which are neighborhood issues. The SEMS Units have done a great job in handling citizen complaints and concerns through educational and enforcement contacts.
 - **Traffic Calming Devices** – Through a cooperative effort between the City of Tempe Traffic Engineering Unit and the Tempe Police Traffic Bureau we have identified and acted upon neighborhood issues through the use of traffic calming devices. Some recent examples include west 5th Street and College Drive.
 - **Signage, Signals, Signatures** – In several areas of the City, such as the area of Hermosa and Mill and Hermosa and Rural, we had a long running issue of cut through traffic which was especially prevalent during morning rush hour. Detailed signage was placed in these areas restricting specific turns during rush hour. This signage, in conjunction with heavy enforcement of the area, has led to a change in driver behavior which has reduced cut through traffic in the neighborhood.
 - **Continued Utilization of Traffic and Patrol Officers in Neighborhoods** – The Traffic Bureau and the Patrol Bureau have focused specific enforcement and educational activities in our neighborhoods. A good example of this activity is our back to school efforts during which we conduct enforcement and educational campaigns at most of our schools when children are walking to or home from school.
 - **GAIN - Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods** is an annual event designed to unite neighbors and help create safer neighborhoods. Elected officials, Neighborhood Services staff and Police employees joined residents throughout the city of Tempe encouraging everyone to get

together in their respective neighborhoods to promote safety and communication, and celebrate the successes of crime prevention through community involvement.

- explore community gardens in conjunction with the Technology, Economic and Community Development Council Committee.
 - Implemented Escalante Community Garden.

