

Focus Group Input

GOAL 1: IMPROVED ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

New Home Considerations

Type of Housing Unit (3)
Access to Parks and Recreation (1) ***Only if draw a variety of users, not just vagrants***
Access to Reliable Transit (2) *Trinidad Metro Stations*

Barriers to Homeownership

Unemployment (3) *Continuing Education*
Lack of Information (2)
Continuing Education
Poor Credit (High Cost of Being Poor) (3)

Interest in Programs to Preserve Housing Affordability

Community Land Trusts (1)
Limited Equity Cooperatives (1)
Rent-to-Own Programs (5)

Issues with Rental Properties

Poor Maintenance (8)
Limited Building Code Enforcement (5)
Rising Rents (2)
Tenants' Association – Monitor Rentals, Self-Policing
Landlords do not re-invest in properties – aka slum lords

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GOAL 2: INCREASED COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT & EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Desired Businesses

Costco (4), Starbucks, Wal-Mart (2, -1), Marshalls (3), pet store (3), movie theater (1), office supplies (2), clothing (2), health foods (5), **quality corner stores (2), Target (5), (art galleries, law firms, better retail, Gap, Victoria's Secret, Crate and Barrel, Pottery Barn, Pier 1) (1), veterinarian (3)**

Quality Goods/Service, Affordable Prices
Support for Local Businesses

Shopping Destinations

Chinatown & Columbia Heights (2)
Prince George's County (1)
Elsewhere in Virginia/Maryland (Capitol Plaza, Annapolis; Prince George's Plaza, Hyattsville) (2)

Community Development Areas: Montello Ave, Mt. Olivet Road, Bladensburg Road)

Barriers to Employment

Criminal Records (3), Age, Certification Requirements (1)
Need Job Training Programs (8)
Frustrated with Lack of Local Hiring (4)

Literacy

Continuing Education

Enforce First Source Provisions (1)

Existing Retail Options

Have to Leave Neighborhoods
for Basic Goods and Services (3) **(need more quality, small local businesses)**
Poor Customer Service at some Local Outlets (Safeway, Stores on H Street) (7)

Courtesy

Poor Food Quality (2)

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GOAL 3: A COMPREHENSIVE VISION FOR COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT

Community Assets

Decent Schools in Walking Distance (5)

(Frequency!) Access to Transportation (6)

Recreation Centers (4)

Library (2)

Viable and Varied Businesses and Retail (1)

Sidewalk Improvements

Programs and Services

Need for Improved Police-Community Relations
(Harassment Issues) (2)

More foot patrols, visibility and interaction with residents.

Safety Walks, Neighborhood Watch (1)

Need for Affordable Childcare (3)

Increase Programming at Rec. Centers (5)

(cooking class, senior programs)

Development Trends

Planned Wal-Mart – Congestion,
Give Back to the Community,
Hire Local Residents

H Street Redevelopment – Entertainment Crowding Out
Neighborhood Retail

Community Greening

Litter and Dumping Issues (9)

More Trash Cans, Sewer Grates to Keep Trash Out

Homeowner Weatherization/Green Training Programs (3)

Need More Trees/Landscaping (3) **Need to nurture trees
once planted**

Poor alley maintenance (2)

Abate Nuisance Housing Issues (1)

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