



Date: May 5, 2015
To: City Council
From: Mayor Pro Temp Cora Cole-Fadden
Subject: Poverty Reduction Initiative; Housing Task Force Update

Executive Summary

In response to the Mayor's Poverty Reduction Initiative (PRI) that focuses on Census Tract 10.01, a number of task forces were created to look at different aspects of reducing poverty, supporting services and building wealth in this low-wealth area of the City. Council representatives and others co-chair the Task Forces. This Agenda Item is an interim report from the Housing Task Force.

Background

The Housing Task Force has been meeting over the past year. Guided by the PRI's data collection processes that included Community Listening Sessions and PRI Questionnaire, Task Force members identified these areas of focus: (1) Energy Efficiency, (2) Homeownership Education, (3) Home Repair, (4) Vacant Lots, (5) Lead Safety and (6) Boarded Structures.

Issues/Analysis

While there are many promising ideas and programs involving housing, the task force has settled on four strategies to pursue in the near term.

Priority: Energy Efficiency

Action Steps Completed: (1) Increase resident training by targeting existing programs in the impact area. Duke Energy Residential Neighborhood Program has been conducting energy efficiency assessments and efficiency upgrades in Census Tract 10.01 since March 2015. (2) Connect community resources via information sharing, handouts and brochures i.e. Resources for Seniors Weatherization Program

Upcoming Steps: targeted Basic Energy Education workshops

Priority: Homeownership Education

Action Steps Completed: (1) Financial education workshops to get those who qualify into the position of homeownership. Rent-To-Own workshops are scheduled for May 26, June 13, June 23 at the Holton Career and Resource Center. (2) Promote National Homeowners Month activities (June).

Priority: Boarded Structures

Action Steps Completed: (1) Identify open or boarded structures within Census Tract 10.01. (2) Cite property owners for open or boarded properties. Following the citation process, owners will have the opportunity to remove boards and secure the house. If property owners do not remove the boards, polycarbonate sheets will be installed at the owner's expense.

Upcoming Steps: Over the next 18 months, all plywood boarded structures within 10.01 will be remediated and brought back into occupancy or have polycarbonate sheets, instead of plywood, installed.

Priority: Lead Safety

Action Steps Completed: Develop a Durham specific information brochure.

Upcoming Steps: proclamation addressing lead-based paint in housing.

The Housing Task Force continues to meet monthly, carrying out the action steps to alleviate issues residents have identified as their greatest needs. The Housing Task Force will continue to connect residents and resources, educate community members and improve the overall quality of housing within the impact area.

Alternatives: Not applicable

Financial Impact

Not applicable with this request to receive a presentation.

SDBE Summary

Not applicable