

Cherry Hill & Westport Partnership

Meeting Notes – August 19, 2008 {DRAFT}

Open Meeting

Topic: Turner Development Project

City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake

Affordable Housing Discussion:

- ✓ Linda Towe – Residents are fearful of the potential negative impact
- ✓ Raine Mullan – Inclusive Housing Coalition view this as opportunity to produce additional affordable housing and outside resources are available to contribute.
- ✓ Mike Mitchell – This project has nation-wide attention and Baltimore can become a model for the future of affordable housing initiatives in the nation. He offered his concern about the City's projection of \$6 million dollars to renovate 70 units in Westport as an underestimation by more than \$4 million dollars.
- ✓ Community Residents - renter, senior home owner and young family
 - Willie Mae Lumpkins – property tax cap for fixed income homeowners.
 - Mike Meade – recreation facility and afterschool activities are desperately needed in community.
 - Debbie Guest – create more opportunities using creative financing options.
- ✓ Shirley Foulkes – the needs of extremely low income residents must be included in the eligibility criteria to obtain an affordable housing unit in the Turner project.

Employment/Jobs Discussion:

- ✓ Ann McLean - living wage jobs with benefits and training opportunities for laborers and professionals must be included in a first source hiring agreement for the community residents.
- ✓ Darlene Harrison - any hotel planned within the Turner project must agree to allow hotel workers the opportunity to unionize.

Transportation Discussion:

- ✓ Betty Baze – roadway improvements and interstate highway access improvements are critical to ensure the existing infrastructure is not degraded by the influx of traffic produced by the Turner project.
- ✓ Evelyn Coleman – Light rail station improvements are critical to mitigate safety and accessibility deficiencies.

Official's Responses to Questions and Concerns:

- ✓ Overall how are the TIF funds being used in this project?
 - President Rawlings-Blake asked the BDC representative to provide details to the community.
- ✓ What portions of the infrastructure will be improved by TIF funds?

- President Rawlings-Blake asked the BDC representative to provide details to the community.
- ✓ Additional TIF funding will support 70 units to be purchased for rehab and 130 new rental units, but why no homeownership opportunities?
 - President Rawlings-Blake asked the BDC representative to provide details to the community.
- ✓ When will the comprehensive transportation study begin?
 - President Rawlings-Blake asked the BDC representative to provide details to the community.
 - Mr. Joseph Madison informed group that the study is underway and is in the data collection phase. Once this phase is completed the community will be invited to participate in the data assessment.
- ✓ In Feb. the Mayor outlined federal funding priorities which included Cherry Hill Light Rail Stop improvements. Can we be provided details of these improvements?
 - Mr. Joseph Madison informed group that the study is underway and is in the data collection phase. Once this phase is completed the community will be invited to participate in the data assessment.
- ✓ Will teachers and public safety employees receive special consideration?
 - No discussion took place on this item.
- ✓ What provisions are being made for the protected wetlands?
 - No discussion took place on this item.
- ✓ We are planning a community-wide information meeting for Westport & Cherry Hill can the City provide a facility like a school for this meeting?
 - No discussion took place on this item.

Community Follow-up Actions:

- ✓ Westport groups should pursue mediation to resolve ongoing conflict.
- ✓ A follow-up meeting will be held on August 28, 2008 to prepare for upcoming public hearing. City representatives from DOT and BDC will be invited.
- ✓ The community strongly disagrees with comments that most of the issues presented are Master Plan related issues. We believe that without concurrent fixes that address the issues presented during this meeting, the Turner Development project will have a significant negative impact on the existing communities and their infrastructure.