



City of Cincinnati

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College Hill Kicks off 90 Day Neighborhood Blitz

Fourteen new partners join the Neighborhood Enhancement Program

Today, the City of Cincinnati and the community of College Hill announced the start of the 90-day focused strategy addressing neighborhood quality of life issues beginning March 1, 2009 through May 31, 2009. This morning's ceremony took place in front of a former nursing home. To a crowd of cheering residents, the demolition of this neighborhood eyesore began as a symbol of the beginning of positive change in College Hill.

Earlier this year, U.S. Bank put out a challenge to the community to encourage donations to further the efforts of the Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP). They generously provided \$5,000 of seed money to each 2009 NEP community, including College Hill. As of today, this money has been doubled, to \$10,000, thanks to the donations from many corporate and community sponsors. In fact, fourteen new partners have joined the NEP in College Hill.

"The NEP program is a perfect example of the tremendous impact that strong partnerships can have on our city," Mayor Mallory said. "At its core, the program is all about partnerships – partnerships between City departments, community organizations, local businesses, and most importantly, our citizens."

Numerous activities are planned during these 90 days, including a College Hill Realtor Tour on April 1, sponsored by the Cincinnati Area Board of Realtors, the Great American Cleanup on April 25, sponsored by Keep Cincinnati Beautiful followed by Repair Affair, on May 9, sponsored by People Working Cooperatively, Inc.

The NEP model has been successfully used in 2007 in Price Hill, Avondale, Northside and in 2008 in Clifton Heights/University Heights/Fairview, Westwood and Evanston. It is designed to jumpstart longer-term neighborhood revitalization and reinvestment and to build on the community initiatives already in place. Together, these neighborhoods saw an average decrease in blight of 15 percent.

"The 90-day blitz model takes advantage of other initiatives in the neighborhood to build momentum for longer term neighborhood revitalization and sustainability. We are glad community building projects are ongoing in all six of the previous NEP neighborhoods," said City Manager Milton Dohoney. "We look forward to a productive NEP in College Hill."

Partners include:

District 5 Police, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, City Departments of Transportation and Engineering, Community Development, Law, Neighborhoods Operations Division of Public Services, Litter Inspections, Health, Fire Recreation and Urban Forestry, Police Partnering Center, Duke Energy, People Working Cooperatively, The Home Ownership Center, Council on Aging, Working In Neighborhoods, State of Ohio Attorney Generals Office, U.S. Bank, LaRosa's, PNC Bank, the Cincinnati Area Board of Realtors, Shhhhh Restaurant, Llanfair Retirement Community, Schwartz Jewelers, College Hill Forum, College Hill Business Association, College Hill Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation, College Hill Citizens on Patrol, College Hill Gardeners, Childrens Hospital, College Hill Coffee Company, Historic Laurel Court, and Pleasant Hill Academy