



City of Cincinnati

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Neighborhood Enhancement Program Successful in Westwood

City, Project Partners celebrate successes

Today, the City of Cincinnati and the community of Westwood announced the results of the 90-day focused strategy addressing neighborhood quality of life issues that began May 16, 2008 through August 15, 2008. This model has been successfully used in Price Hill, Avondale, Northside and Clifton Heights/University Heights/Fairview and was 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.

Through focused, integrated and concentrated city service delivery and community redevelopment efforts, partners (City departments, the residents, and the community organizations) sought to improve the quality of life in Westwood. The targeted area was identified through an analysis of building code violations, vacant buildings, disorder and drug calls for Police service and drug arrests, as well as incidence of graffiti, junk autos, litter and weeds.

"The partnerships that are formed as we come together for the Neighborhood Enhancement Program are critical to the success that we are seeing in each neighborhood," said City Manager Milton Dohoney, Jr. "Westwood's residents and community organizations, and city staff rallied throughout the last three months to make a sustainable difference."

The 90-day, collaborative effort focused on developing neighborhood assets. Integrated services delivery included: Concentrating building code enforcement; Identifying and 'cooling down' crime hot spots; Cleaning up streets, sidewalks, and vacant lots; Beautifying landscapes, streetscapes and public right of way; Engaging property owners and residents to create and sustain a more livable neighborhood, after the first 90 days.

Results

- Decrease in baseline "blight index" of 23%
- The Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Division of Community Development inspected 726 buildings, identifying 625 code violations on 272 properties.
- They demolished 3 buildings with 10 more under contract to be demolished.
- District 3 Police made a total of 325 arrests, confiscated \$6,285 and responded to 881 calls for service.
- The Dept. of Public Services, Litter Control Unit conducted 139 inspections for litter and weeds /tall grass.
- The Fire Department conducted 876 fire inspections, fire prevention education, and proper smoke detector installation and maintenance
- Community partners made significant contributions in Westwood, too numerous to cover this morning. Suffice it to say that the efforts of volunteerism, organizing, fundraising and participation throughout this process by the community made this effort the success it is.

Partners included:

District 3 Police, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, City Depts of Recreation, Transportation and Engineering, Community Development, Law, MSD, Waterworks, Neighborhoods Operations Division of Public Services, Litter Inspections, Health, and Fire, Westwood Civic Association, Westwood Concern, Westwood Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation, Police Partnering Center, Duke Energy, People Working Cooperatively, The Home Ownership Center, and Westwood Citizens on Patrol.

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