

The background image is a faded, light blue-toned photograph of a community meeting. In the foreground, a person with curly hair is seen from the side, looking towards a large map. Another person is visible in the background, pointing at the map with a pen. The map shows a city street grid and some green spaces. To the right, a sign is partially visible with a circular logo and the text "I'm interested" and "CLOSE +".

Continuing the Conversation on **Community Engagement**

Overview

- 1 City of Cincinnati Community Engagement
- 2 Community Conversations & Survey Overview
- 3 What We Heard
- 4 Next Steps
- 5 Discussion/Questions

City of Cincinnati Community Engagement

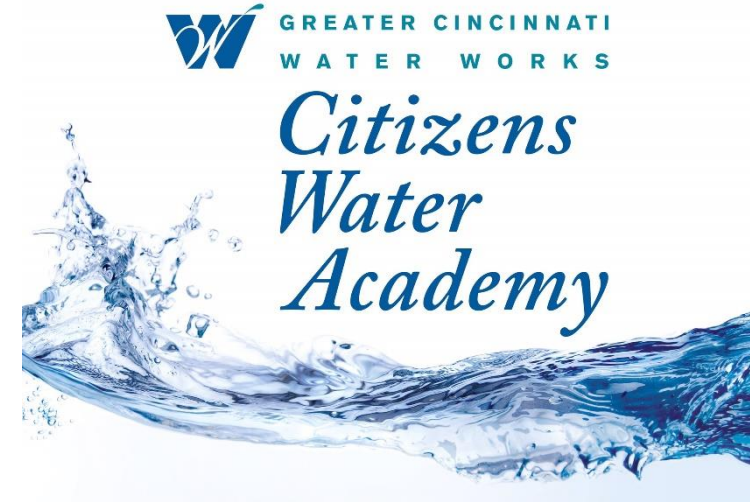
- **Website** (cincinnati-oh.gov)
- **Social Media** (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, NextDoor)
- **Email**
- **City Council and Committee Meetings** (in-person, virtual meeting, CitiCable)
- **City-led presentations** at community council meetings and Invest in Neighborhoods meetings
- **Mobile App and 513-591-6000** (Fix It Cincy App/Phone)
- **Board and Commission Meetings** (in-person, virtual meeting, CitiCable, i.e., Cincinnati City Parks Board, City Planning Commission)



Photo Credit: Cincinnati Enquirer

City of Cincinnati Community Engagement

- **City-led, community engagement meetings** (i.e., community engagement meetings for development projects, public staff conferences for zone changes)
- **City-led, special engagement meetings and processes** (topic- and site-based public project meetings, i.e., Oskamp Recreation Area Expansion, Rapid Run Park/Dunham Recreation Center Connection, Property Tax Working Group, Police Station District-Five Site Planning)
- **Community Budget Requests** and **Neighborhood Project Suggestions**
- **Neighborhood Planning Process**
- **Special events** (i.e., Neighborhood Summit, Greater Cincinnati Water Works Events, Neighborhood Leadership Academy, etc.)



City Planning & Engagement Community Engagement

- Noticing for public meetings and City Planning Commission
- Feedback sessions (Community Engagement Meetings and Public Staff Conferences)
- Long-range planning processes (City-wide and neighborhood level)

Noticing

- Mailed legal noticing requirements for subdivisions, zone changes, etc.
 - Property owners with proximity
 - Community Council
- Notice sign for subdivisions
- Additional best practices
 - Emailed notice to community councils and community development corporations
 - Webpage on website
 - Social media



Cincinnati City Planning & Engagement
Published by Samantha McLean · May 28 at 9:00 AM ·

Notice of Public Engagement Meeting on a land sale and development agreement of City-owned property at 3584 Alaska Avenue in Avondale

A public engagement meeting will be held virtually on Zoom on Thursday, June 3, at 4:00 p.m. on a proposed land sale and development agreement of City-owned property at 3584 Alaska Avenue for the construction of eighteen single-family homes. The purpose of this meeting is to present information about the proposed project and collect public input and feedback on the proposal.

For more information and to sign-up to receive the Zoom link, please visit:
<https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/.../alaska-avenue-in-avondale/>

Proposed Development Agreement and Sale of City-owned Property at 3584 Alaska Avenue in Avondale

VIRTUAL PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MEETING NOTICE

Subject: Proposed land sale and development agreement of City-owned property at 3584 Alaska Avenue in Avondale.

Date: Thursday, June 3, 2021

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place: The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. Please send a request to the following email address for the meeting link to join and it will be sent directly to you: stacey.hoffman@cincinnati-oh.gov

Purpose: The purpose of this meeting is to present information about the proposed project and collect public input and feedback on the proposal.

Project Location: 3584, Alaska Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45229 (see map on reverse)

Project Summary: Co-developers Titan Real Estate Group and Avondale Development Corporation propose the construction of eighteen single-family homes in two phases at 3584 Alaska Avenue. A new street is proposed to connect Alaska Avenue and Harvey Avenue; most of the homes will be built along this new development agreement.

For more information, please visit:
<https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/planning/community-engagement-meetings/alaska-avenue-in-avondale/>

You received notice of this meeting because you own property within 400 feet of the proposed project or are the community council. If you are an owner and have commercial or residential tenants at your property, please provide a copy of this notice to them.

Please direct written statements, requests, and other communications to the office listed below:
Stacey Hoffman, Senior City Planner, Department of City Planning
805 Central Avenue, Suite 720, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
stacey.hoffman@cincinnati-oh.gov | 513-352-4890

Community Engagement Sessions & Public Staff Conferences

Community Engagement Meetings

- For lease/sales of City-owned property or appropriations for development projects valued at \$50,000 or more
- Prior to City Council

Public Staff Conferences

- For zone changes
- Prior to City Planning Commission

Purpose of Meetings

- Share information about project
- Collect feedback on proposals for memo or staff reports
- Opportunity to answer questions from community

Community Conversations

Community Engagement Ordinance

City of Cincinnati
An Ordinance No. _____

KMG
BWB
- 2021

REQUESTING that the City Manager, with input and participation from citizens, community councils, community groups, and City partners, develop an additional community engagement plan, which includes a timeline and details the resources required in order for the plan to be implemented by the City of Cincinnati, including the Mayor, City administration, City boards, commissions and Council committees, in order to achieve the policy goals described in Attachment A attached hereto.

WHEREAS, the mission of Cincinnati City Council is to provide, in a democratic and transparent manner, efficient and effective services that will make Cincinnati a better place in which to live, work, and play; and

WHEREAS, citizen engagement enhances the City's democratic processes, increases transparency and effectiveness, improves the quality of government decisions, and enlists the problem-solving capacities of the general public and organizations outside of the City; and

WHEREAS, this Council acknowledges that those affected by local government decisions should have the opportunity to participate in an engagement process; and

WHEREAS, there have been dramatic changes in technology, especially through broadcast media and the internet, allowing for greater transparency and citizen participation; and

WHEREAS, the City previously established a community engagement policy as summarized in the City Manager's FYI Memo dated February 26, 2021, and established the Department of City Planning and Engagement; and

WHEREAS, this Council requests that the City Manager present an additional community engagement plan that includes a timeline and resources required, with participation from community stakeholders; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That Council requests that the City Manager develop an additional policy to promote citizen engagement in City government, including the Mayor, City Council, the City administration, and City boards, commissions and Council committees, in order to achieve the policy goals described in Attachment A attached hereto.



Community Conversation Meetings

Join us for
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS
on Community Engagement

The City Manager's Office, with input and participation from citizens, community councils, community groups, and City partners, is developing a community engagement plan. As a first step, the City will facilitate conversations during public meetings to gather feedback and brainstorm how the City can work to improve or create new methods of engagement. Join us at one of the following meetings:

Tuesday, November 9
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Bond Hill Recreation Center
1501 Elizabeth Place

Monday, November 22
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
On Zoom
(Visit website to register)

Wednesday, November 17
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Westwood Town Hall
3017 Harrison Ave.

Registration is required for the virtual meeting. Registration encouraged, but not required for in-person meetings.

Scan the QR code or visit
cincinnati-oh.gov/community-conversations
to register, learn more, and take a survey to share your feedback.

The City of Cincinnati is committed to equal access at meetings and facilities by providing reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities upon request. For questions or assistance, please contact: Jesse Urbancsik | jesse.urbancsik@cincinnati-oh.gov | 513-352-4843 or Ashlee Dingler-Marshall | ashlee.dingler-marshall@cincinnati-oh.gov | 513-352-4854

&

Community Engagement Survey

CINCINNATI

Community Engagement Survey

The City of Cincinnati is seeking feedback from residents, community councils, community groups, and City partners about how to improve public engagement in the City, in order to develop a community engagement plan. Community engagement includes methods and processes of communication and convening that allow the City to inform, consult, involve, and collaborate with residents on City matters.

The City will hold a series of public meetings to facilitate small group discussions about current City community engagement tools and associated successes, challenges, and opportunities for improvement. To participate in a feedback meeting and/or for more information, please visit the [Community Conversations website](#).

For information about City Council's request, please visit [Council Online](#).

This survey will close December 1, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. (ET). For questions and assistance, please contact:

Jesse Urbancsik at jesse.urbancsik@cincinnati-oh.gov, 513-352-4843 or Ashlee Dingler-Marshall at ashlee.dingler-marshall@cincinnati-oh.gov, 513-352-4854

Start survey, here!

The following are some of the tools that the City of Cincinnati uses to engage residents:

- Website (cincinnati-oh.gov)
- Social Media (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, NextDoor)
- Email
- City Council and Committee Meetings (in-person, virtual meeting, CitiCable)
- City-led presentations at community council meetings and invest in Neighborhoods meetings
- Mobile App and 311-591-6000 (Fix It Cincy App/iPhone)
- Board and Commission Meetings (in-person, virtual meeting, CitiCable, i.e., Cincinnati City Parks Board, City Planning Commission)
- City-led, community engagement meetings (i.e., community engagement meetings for



Community Conversations Report

Community Conversations Report

February 10, 2022

CINCINNATI
CITY PLANNING & ENGAGEMENT

Community Conversations Meetings

- 3 public meetings in November 2021
 - 2 in-person (Bond Hill and Westwood)
 - 1 on zoom
- Total of 85 participants



Community Conversations Meetings

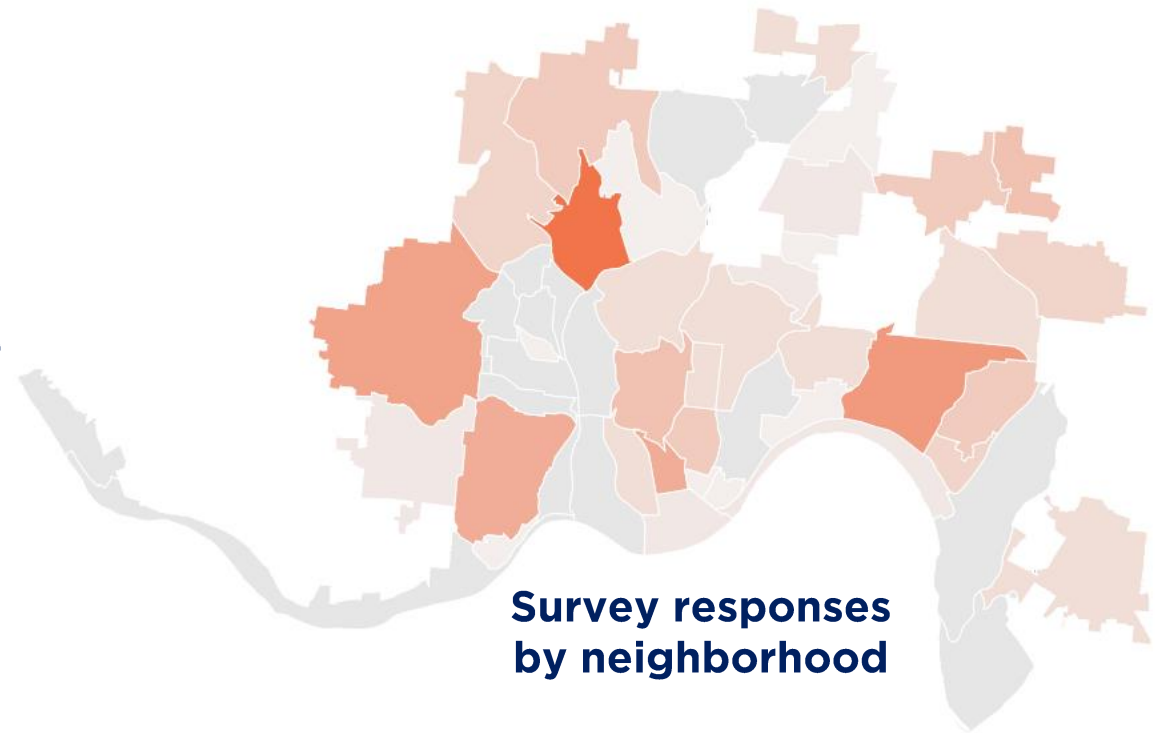


Small group conversations on:

1. What does **successful engagement** mean to you?
2. In a city that successfully engages its residents, **how** and on **which topics or issues** would you prefer to be engaged?
3. In a city that successfully engages its residents, **how do we connect with diverse groups** about community engagement?
4. Has the **pandemic changed the topics or methods by which you engage** or prefer to be engaged?
5. In a city that successfully engages its residents, what is **the role that education (trainings, guidebooks, etc.)** plays, by which residents are trained and informed, regarding communication and topics about community engagement?

Community Engagement Survey

- Online survey open for over a month
- 159 responses from 33 neighborhoods
- Questions:
 - How do you **currently engage**?
 - What engagement methods are you **aware of** and which ones do you **use**?
 - How would you like to **engage in future**?
 - What **prevents** you from engaging?
 - What would **motivate** you to become more involved?
 - How can the City **improve** community engagement?



What We Learned Current State of Engagement

41%

of survey respondents rated their level of engagement between 6-8 on a scale of 1-10

Engagement when topic/issues directly concerns street or neighborhood.

"While I've heard of the [tools], many times I do not hear about specific opportunities or events... I believe outreach is the main struggle."

More people at virtual meetings, but quality of engagement and discussion has decreased

Top **5** ways residents currently engage:

1. Website and Social Media
2. City Council and Committee meetings
3. Email notifications
4. City-led presentations at community council meetings
5. Board and Commission meetings

What We Learned Important Topics



What We Learned Definitions of Successful Engagement

Communication

Empowerment

Collaboration

Transparency

- Accessible – able to reach all people
- Two-way street
- Centralized location on website
- Spread word through non-traditional avenues (go beyond the City's website and social media)
- Timely notification
- Breaking down language barriers

What We Learned Definitions of Successful Engagement

Communication

Empowerment

Collaboration

Transparency

- Having a clear understanding and definition of engagement
- More involvement earlier in the decision-making process
- Providing more than just two-minutes to speak on a topic at a meeting
- Education/trainings on processes

What We Learned

Definitions of Successful Engagement

Communication

Empowerment

Collaboration

Transparency

- With community councils, but also other organizations who actively engage their communities
- Build trust and relationships with community members
- Meeting communities where they are (utilizing existing events, channels, etc.)

What We Learned

Definitions of Successful Engagement

Communication

Empowerment

Collaboration

Transparency


- Engagement earlier in process
- Understanding levels of engagement
- Feedback on what happens with the engagement

What We Learned Barriers to Engagement


- **Lack of time and/or accessible tool**
- **Lack of knowledge**
- **Other barriers**




"Lack of opportunities for meaningful engagement."



"Often times I hear of an engagement opportunity after it has occurred."



"I don't have lack of time, but the times of meetings are not convenient."



"No sense of urgency about being involved. General sense that things are not working."

What We Learned

What Would Motivate Engagement

"Engagement at the front end before decisions are made. Engagement with the decision makers. Opportunity for discussion, not just one-way communication."

Avoiding jargon;
more centralized
location of
information

"Please keep remote options! Love being able to tune in from home. It was made a huge difference."

- **A change in City's communication & knowledge about how to get involved**
- **A change in City meeting places and times**
- **A change in City engagement tool options**

What We Learned Ways to Improve Engagement

- Increase **communication** with residents
 - Add a more visible, centralized place on the website for engagement
 - Provide education on how to engage
 - Earlier notice of engagement opportunities
 - Create a strong communication channel with community councils and other respected community institutions
- Ensure **accessibility** of engagement methods (for varying abilities, language, education level, location, time, etc.)
- Increase opportunities to be **engaged earlier** in the decision-making process
- Follow up on input and **be transparent**

Next Steps

- Continue research on national best practices
- Engage other City Departments to better understand their communications and engagement practices
- Develop preliminary strategies for the community engagement plan
- Conduct additional engagement with community members and stakeholders on preliminary strategies
- Deliver draft of community engagement plan to City Manager
- Additional opportunity for public review and comment
- Present community engagement plan to City Council

A large group of people are gathered in a room, likely for a community meeting or public consultation. They are seated at long tables, some facing each other in small groups, others looking towards the front of the room. The room has a high ceiling with recessed lighting. In the background, a large screen displays a presentation slide. The overall atmosphere is one of active participation and discussion.

Thank you!

Questions & Discussion

For more information:

www.cincinnati-oh.gov/community-conversations