GO-GO MICRO

Targeted Strategies that Have a Big Impact in Highly Distressed Neighborhoods

Tom Hetrick & Joseph Napier

YOUNGSTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
• **Anticipated Population:**
  250,000 – infrastructure laid out

• **Peak Population:**
  170,002 in 1930

• **“Black Monday”:**
  September 19, 1997

• **Job Losses:**
  40,000 lost in 5 years; weak economic conditions persist
CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN
CURRENT REALITY

2016 Snapshot

- Population: 65,062 - 61 Percent
- Vacant Structures: 3,900 Structures
- Vacant Land: 24,000+ Parcels
- Poverty Rate: 37 Percent
- Median HH Income: $24,361
- Avg. Home Sale Price: $21,327
2005: The City of Youngstown gathered community members and other stakeholders to craft Youngstown 2010 plan

2009: Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (YNDC) created through public-private partnership – citywide community planning and development organization

2013: YNDC began providing neighborhood planning services for the City of Youngstown
NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING PROCESS

• **STEP ONE:** Development of a Neighborhood Conditions Report and housing market segmentation analysis

• **STEP TWO:** Stakeholder and resident engagement

• **STEP THREE:** Identification of neighborhood assets and priorities

• **STEP FOUR:** Creation of Neighborhood Action Plans and Asset-based micro plans

• **GOAL:** Develop neighborhood plans and citywide revitalization strategies that are responsive to neighborhood characteristics and community input
Asset-based Micro Plans produce strategies for weak-market communities. Small, defined area, centered on a community asset:

- Schools
- Parks/playgrounds
- Libraries
- Churches

Provides a starting point for broader neighborhood improvement. Assets can be used to leverage funding, support, and economic development.
1. **Housing and Property Issues**: Eliminate litter, illegal dumping, code violations, vacant homes, and unmaintained vacant lots.

2. **Infrastructure Repair and Maintenance**: Improve streets, sidewalks, and streetlights.

3. **Crime and Safety Concerns**: Reduce crime hot spots, criminal activity and vacant properties, and neighborhood nuisances.

4. **Economic Development**: Increase number of jobs, businesses, and improve aesthetics of commercial corridors.

Provides property-specific strategies, identifies action steps, responsible parties and timelines, and establishes goals and benchmarks for five-year period.
Detailed survey of All Housing and Property Issues:

- Vacancy
- Code Violations
- Unmaintained Vacant Lots
- Illegal Dumping

Property-Specific Strategies

- Demolition
- Code Enforcement
- Paint Youngstown
- Vacant Lot Greening
IMPLEMENTATION
HOUSING & PLANNING

• 18 Vacant Structures Demolished by 910 Airlift Wing of the Air Force Reserve

• 4H Garden Expanded, as a Collaboration Between Block Watch, School and Land Bank
INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

Detailed Survey of All Public Right-of-Ways:

• Deteriorated Sidewalks
• Potholes
• Unmarked Crosswalks
• Missing Street Signs
• Road Condition
• Non-Functioning Streetlights
• Missing Curb Ramps
• Dead Street Trees
IMPLEMENTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

2015

$200,000 Safe Routes to School Grant Awarded for Infrastructure Improvements
Identification of Crime Hot Spots:

- Address-specific calls for service to YPD
- Reported crimes

Crime Prevention Strategies

- Community police engagement and intervention
- Housing code enforcement, including rental regulations
- Apply for US DOJ Byrne grant
2015 - $155,000 US DOJ Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Project grant awarded to develop a crime-reduction implementation plan

• Part of Obama Administration’s Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative

• Selected sites analyze crime data, engage community members, and develop a cross-sector partnership to implement a place-based crime-reduction strategy

• Selected target area has the highest concentrated crime in the city
## BCJI TARGET AREA DEMOGRAPHICS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Target Area</th>
<th>City of Youngstown</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2013 Population</strong></td>
<td>9,390</td>
<td>66,511</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2000-2013 Population Loss</strong></td>
<td>29.4%</td>
<td>-18.9%</td>
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<td><strong>2013 Poverty Rate</strong></td>
<td>45.7%</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2016 Housing Vacancy</strong></td>
<td>20.9%</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
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TARGET AREA HOT SPOT MAPPING

Residential Hot Spots

Commercial Hot Spots
Market Analysis and Action Plan for South Ave. (Funded through US DOJ Byrne grant)

**Market Analysis:**

- Identification of nodes of activity
- Market leakage analysis
- Physical conditions assessment
- Stakeholder input

**Action Plan**

- Encourage collaboration among stakeholders to address blighted conditions, particularly at nodes of activity
- Target nodes for clean-up, land acquisition and assembly, and redevelopment
- Target tenants for vacant sites to create a viable convenience node
CROSS SECTOR PARTNERSHIP

Taft Promise Neighborhood

**Goal:** to bring residents, businesses and organizations together to address the unique needs of the neighborhood.

**Neighborhood and Safety:** To support resident-led revitalization efforts through neighborhood engagement with a focus on housing, infrastructure, and safety concerns.

**Health and Wellness:** To improve health and well being and promote healthy behaviors

**Education:** To deliver educational programs that support students and families from cradle to career

**Jobs and Economy:** To encourage workforce development and create employment opportunities for residents.
Goal #1 Reduce Housing Vacancy and Blight: Board up and clean up 20 vacant properties; demolish 35 vacant/blighted houses; repair 10 properties through the Paint Youngstown program; green all vacant lots post demolition.

Goal #2 Increase Neighborhood Safety: Analyze crime data to track crime patterns and trends; conduct CPTED assessments; develop cross-sector partnership to address crime hot spots; strengthen ties between YPD and residents.

Goal #3 Reduce Lead Hazards in Housing: Identify and complete lead remediation for owner-occupied and rental properties.

Goal #4 Increase Housing Stability for Families: Utilize resident survey data to identify residents need for services, such as financial literacy counseling; work with landlords to increase quality rental units.

Goal #5 Increase Resident Engagement and Participation: Conduct door to door canvassing informing residents of the Taft Promise Neighborhood efforts and upcoming events; increase the capacity of block watches.

Goal #6 Repair and Improve Neighborhood Infrastructure: Install new sidewalks and crosswalks; improve signage, particularly around the school; repair non-functioning street lights.
THANK YOU

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