

## LIBERTY SQUARE REDEVELOPMENT

### Community Engagement Session 02: Public Safety

Liberty Square Community Center

October 13, 2016 | 6:00 – 8:00pm

#### SUMMARY

The meeting focused on strategies for crime prevention through environmental design [CPTED], as well as on various programs for community and police collaboration that will contribute to greater public safety in Liberty Square. Among the programs discussed were Crime Watch, Crime Stoppers and PAL [Police Athletic League]. Presenters included representatives from the city and county police departments as well as the redevelopment design team. All responded to questions and comments from the community [See Meeting 2 Agenda]. Attendees were informed that a summary of the proceedings, accompanied by the full visual presentation, would be posted after the meeting at: [www.newlibertysquare.com](http://www.newlibertysquare.com).

#### PROJECT UPDATE

Jorge Cibran, Division Director, MDC Public Housing and Community Development began by responding to an outstanding question from Meeting 1 about the possibility of maintaining residents' businesses at home, noting that building landlords may agree and consent to running a business in a residential property if it complies with applicable regulations.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY PRESENTATION

Ivo Fernandez, of Modis Architects, presented:

#### CPTED [Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design]

Strategies for Liberty Square: [pdf. pp 3-10]

#### NATURAL SURVEILLANCE STRATEGIES: Community Eyes on the Street

- **Orienting buildings towards the pedestrian walkways, public sidewalks and parking areas:** Views of street from every direction; units face sidewalks and streets; large windows, porches, good pedestrian lighting. [pdf p. 3]
- **Creating clear sight lines to all public areas:** Wide open, easy to see areas – clear access points [pdf. p.4]
- **Eliminate small and hidden alleyways:** Focus on green open spaces – move attention to main avenues [pdf p. 5]
- **Large/ wide sidewalks and pedestrian walkways connecting residential buildings:** Wider sidewalks to accommodate bicycles [pdf p. 6]
- **Open community spaces within all blocks:** Include secure tot lots – This allows children to stay and play within the residential parts of Liberty Square and brings community together. [pdf p. 7]
- **Traffic-calming devices:** Control traffic and speed (for safety) – Elements include circles, rotundas, medians – 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue (increased width of avenue) [pdf p. 8]
- **Mixed-use development:** Residential, commercial (67<sup>th</sup> street), community services, recreational, amenities, etc. to promote pedestrian activity at all times. [pdf pp. 9-10]
- **Promote pedestrian activities:** Community/family parks; rec fields (sports); walking paths; afterschool activities for youth and more amenities for the youth to be involved with law enforcement (Example: PAL – Police Athletic League). [pdf pp. 9-10]
- **Active Surveillance:** Residents partner with the police department to keep things safe  
Residents watch over their community  
Citizens Crime Watch programs, education

#### COMMUNITY QUESTIONS | COMMENTS | RESPONSES:

**Q.** If someone reports something, things are not necessarily safe for them. How does one report a problem without getting in trouble?

**R.** Establishing safe ways to give information is important. Crime-Stoppers, for example is anonymous. We rely heavily on the community. If it's an ongoing problem such as graffiti, drugs, etc, the police needs to be informed

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**Q.** Nothing has been done in the past about things.

**R.** Want to present a new beginning – have to let some things of the past go – have to change mindset and create a partnership with the county, city, residents, police, etc – beautification will take place in the community with art; it will be a place to call your own

**Q.** Would the police be willing to sit down and talk with the youth? They don't trust the police right now. The police should communicate with young people; they need to understand consequences.

**R.** The police will have more involvement in the community. A PAL Program will operate from Liberty Square: Mentorship with the police – there will be more police involvement with the community and the youth.

**Concluding Community Member Comment:** If, with this project, something new is brought to the city and to the community, but the mindset of the residents does not change, then nothing will improve. Community members –parents-- must commit to taking charge and working with their young people.

#### **NATURAL ACCESS CONTROL ELEMENTS:** [pdf pp. 11- 17]

- **Physical Elements:** To keep out unauthorized guests [pdf p. 11]
- **Aluminum fencing:** Between buildings [6'] and enclosing parking areas [pdf p. 12]
- **Pedestrian and Driveway Gates** (key fob access) [pdf p. 13]
- **Adequate lighting** (security, sidewalks, streets, parks) [pdf p. 14]
- **Security cameras:** Strategically located to promote safety [pdf p. 15]
- **Paved sidewalks:** Connecting residential buildings and entries [pdf p. 16]
- **Windows will have impact glass:** For safety and weather [hurricane] protection. No bars on windows. [pdf p. 17]

#### **EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION AND ALERT ELEMENTS\_** [pdf pp. 18-22]

- **Fire sirens and gate controls**
- **Knock Boxes for emergency access**
- **Smoke alarms, sprinklers, detectors in all units and public areas**
- **24-hour nurse call system for elderly units**

#### **CITIZENS' CRIME WATCH PROGRAM**

A Liberty Square Crime Watch Program is being considered. Community members were asked 'Who would like to start a Crime Watch Program at Liberty Square'? If the community is interested, then the development team can help in beginning a program.

**A.** Numerous hands were raised in the audience

#### **COMMUNITY QUESTIONS | COMMENTS | RESPONSES:**

**Q.** What to do about the violence that is going on now, especially with the young kids?

**A.** There's a surge in violence in Miami-Dade. In order to succeed in making Liberty Square safe, police, the community, and parents must work in partnership.

#### **PROJECT PHASING AND PUBLIC SAFETY:**

First phase of the project (67<sup>th</sup> St and 15<sup>th</sup> Ave): Considering tearing down area of 67<sup>th</sup> St and 12<sup>th</sup> Ave during the first phase and fencing it off until construction begins.

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#### **NOTE:**

This document, drafted by FIU and finalized in consultation with Miami Dade County PHCD and Related Urban, was prepared as a brief summary of the topics discussed on 10.13.2016. It does not constitute full minutes of the meeting.