

File ID#00364 Accepting the Vision Document for the Allied Community

as presented by the Mayor

Report of the Community Services Commission

The Community Services Commission has a primary objective of moving the Allied Drive community forward through specific Purchase of Service contracts and the Weed and Seed initiative. The Commission is pleased that through Weed and Seed, the City has been able to embed an employee at the internal community level. The Commission is also pleased that the City, through the Mayor's Office, has issued an initial vision document that has defined a need for numerous services, programs and physical improvements in the neighborhood. The Mayor's stated goal, "...to keep the neighborhood affordable for current residents, not move them out", is one that we endorse. There is a need to find real solutions, or at least mitigating actions to the issues of poverty, education, counseling and rehabilitation, rather than move the problem from one neighborhood to another with scarce resources chasing the problems. Therefore, the Commission supports all efforts to improve the economy, learning, wellness and life in the Allied Community.

The Commission recommends that the Common Council accept the Mayor's initial vision statement. Residents of Allied Drive should not be disadvantaged by the complexity of multiple jurisdictions, and we applaud the Mayor's attempt to develop common understanding through the intergovernmental group. The Commission further recommends that community based agencies, neighborhood groups and associations work collaboratively to come together and assist in the development and creation of a master plan under auspices of the City of Fitchburg, Verona School District, Dane

County and Madison Metropolitan School District with the City of Madison taking the lead.

The Mayor's vision states clearly that many Allied residents "struggle to meet their basic needs" and "need a number of programs and services". These are issues that the Office of Community Services deals with directly through its staff and funding process.

The Commission specifically offers the following recommendations:

A. Resident Access to and Involvement in Decision Making

1. Convene regular planned dialogues between the City and the community to develop mutual goals and strategies. Alternative, non-traditional strategies may be needed to gain the participation of the residents of this neighborhood. The creation of the Ad Hoc Task Force on Allied Strategies is a useful step towards this objective. We recommend a process that provides for continual information flow from City staff and Committees to the Task Force, as well as continual information flow from the Task Force to City staff and committees.

Continuation of the Mayor's Open House events in Allied is a good mechanism for regular updates with residents who aren't already involved through the Neighborhood Association. We suggest that the Open House have a format that allows for more resident feedback into the City's decision-making systems. We would like to see these become more dialogues with residents, in addition to City

staff informing residents of what the City is doing for the neighborhood.

2. The Mayor and Alderperson should schedule a regular forum for resident feedback, utilizing the services of our bilingual Weed and Seed Coordinator, to stay informed about the need and effectiveness of human services in the area.
3. Incorporate Community Services staff on all City staff teams and sub-teams to serve as an effective communication link with Allied residents.

B. Comprehensive, Neighborhood-based Services

1. Plan for a comprehensive set of neighborhood-based services that will help residents with their current basic needs, as well as services that will help residents become self-sufficient over time. Services that help residents move to self-sufficiency would include (but are not limited to) GED completion, technical schools, higher education, employment/training, business opportunities and financial literacy.
2. Certain core services should be neighborhood-based so that transportation is not an insurmountable barrier for residents needing the services. These services should be provided at hours that are most suitable for most people's needs and would include:
 - a. Basic Needs
Food Pantry

Madison Metro Bus Tickets and availability of auxiliary and flexible transportation services to access services not located in the neighborhood or on long Metro bus routes

b. Housing Case Management/Eviction Prevention

c. Public Benefits Case Workers

d. Child Care

In-home family day care

Center-based care

e. Educational/Pre-employment Training Programs

GED/HSED

ESL

Literacy (general and financial)

Skills Training – building/construction trades, health care workers, computer/administrative

Youth Employment – career options/planning, resume writing, interviewing, job placement, follow-up

f. Elementary/Middle/High School after-school and summer recreational, cultural and mentoring programming

g. Family Resource Center

Parenting education and support

Home Visitation

3. Work with our municipal partners, non-profit service providers and residents to plan for the co-location of human services in the neighborhood. Co-location in adequate, long-term space will

provide more effective service delivery for residents while maximizing the scarce resources available for those services.

4. The Allied and Emerging Neighborhood funds program is an excellent method for engaging the neighborhood. For it to be effective, the City must work collaboratively with the neighborhood and other possible funders to sustain and grow effective programs over the long term.

C. Child Care

1. Address the need for child care programming to support employment and other efforts involving residents and children.
2. The Mayor should capitalize on the City's child care program to plan for adequate child care to meet the employment needs of residents and the care and education needs of children. Child care is essential to the immediate needs of children and families and to the longer-term transformation of the neighborhood.

D. Affordable Housing

1. Actively pursue non-profit developers (such as Future Madison, Common Wealth Development, Project Home, Affordable Housing Alliance) to work on creating new models for housing opportunities in the neighborhood, because history tells us that this may be the best way to increase the number of affordable housing units. Find creative ways to support these non-profit developers once we engage them in projects.

2. Conduce a formal examination of the experience of non-profit housing providers in the Allied Drive area to learn what has worked and what hasn't worked. Examine the model used in the Vera Court neighborhood.
3. Follow the recommendation from the Mayo/REDI housing study commissioned by the City of Madison, which recommends that a "selection of developer(s) might involve a developer team rather than a developer company and also consider team members with experience and commitment to inclusion of service components."
4. Include housing case management services to help residents become stable in their living situations. This will have a positive impact on turnover rates for landlords, mobility rates, resident participation in community development, student achievement and the effective delivery of human services. Negotiate with developers to provide these services when government funding is included in the project.

E. Access and Transportation

1. Seek creative ways to improve physical access and transportation services that allow residents to take advantage of education, employment, health care, AODA services, domestic violence programs and food shopping needs that cannot be located within the neighborhood. Hold discussions with Madison Metro and non-profit transportation providers to set up usable destination-specific

shuttles. Shuttle service could be provided to large employers, as well as to services outside the neighborhood.

F. Training and Employment

1. Increase the training and employment opportunities of community residents by businesses, agencies, organizations, developers and City projects being undertaken in the neighborhood. Work to reduce low-income and minority resident barriers to family-supporting jobs. Such issues would include criminal backgrounds, lost driver licenses, education and work ethics.

G. Outcome Evaluation

1. Establish and monitor long-term goals and outcomes of the efforts focused on the neighborhood. Measurements should include both neighborhood outcomes, as well as individual family outcomes.

Such measurements might include:

Resident Longevity (neighborhood overall and individual families)

Resident Income (neighborhood overall and individual families)

Student Mobility and Achievement Rates in the Schools

Parental Involvement in Schools

Home Ownership (neighborhood overall and current renters in the neighborhood able to move into ownership opportunities)

Employment Rates and Wage Levels

Calls for Police Services and Types of Police Calls

The Community Services Commission recognizes that additional amendments were passed at the Common Council meeting at which the Gorman proposal was approved and would be happy to assist in implementing those additional agreements.