

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

UPDATE ON THE OWL CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD

November 19, 2008

BACKGROUND:

- On August 15, 2008, the Mayor's office held a meeting with numerous stakeholders involved with the Owl Creek neighborhood. Participants included Office of Community Services, Police, Health, CDBG, Housing, Metro, Dane County Human Services, United Way, MMSD, private landlords and private developers and the alderperson

The purpose of the meeting was to share information about this relatively new and small neighborhood that has created higher than average police calls for service as well as challenges for the schools that serve the neighborhood.

Several individuals volunteered to work on various aspects of issues coming from this neighborhood.

- Issues identified:
 - * Above average police calls for service.
 - * Schools report kids fighting in the neighborhood (often as a result of picking up the fights of the adults in the neighborhood), and those fights are being brought into the schools.
 - * No metro service to this neighborhood and not within walking distance to grocery, schools, churches, restaurants, libraries, etc.
 - * Originally built as single-family home ownership. Because of the economy, lack of interest in purchasing these properties, etc., the housing is now being rented out and managed by relatively new property managers. Police indicate that there was not proper screening of tenants happening. Managers disagree.
 - * No recreational activities in the neighborhood and no late bus to the neighborhood so kids can participate in after school activities.