City of Madison Neighborhood Resource Teams (NRTs)

Overview for Common Council Executive Committee

January 14, 2025

Mission

To promote racial equity and improve the quality of life for Madison residents by understanding and elevating the needs, issues, and priorities of people living in areas with Neighborhood Resource Teams (NRTs).

Goals

- Develop relationships among City staff,
 neighborhood residents, and other stakeholders
- Coordinate, develop, and improve City services to neighborhoods in concert with residents and other stakeholders
- Increase the City's knowledge of neighborhood issues and opportunities
- Highlight issues that cut across multiple NRT focus areas to address systemic barriers

Internal Dynamics and Challenges

- Inherently countercultural
- Making assumptions about quality of life and what's good for people
- Perpetuating stigma about neighborhoods and their residents
- Seeing NRTs as the silver bullet
- Being overly inclusive
- Engaging in creative helplessness
- Different iterations with different mayors

Putting it together

- Centering racial equity
- Recognizing the dignity of people
- Stopping the perpetuation of stigma
- Embracing our roles as public servants

What Do NRTs Do?

- Bring people together
- Develop individual and institutional relationships
- Find out what's important to people
- Get things going big and small alike
- Connect the dots
- Drive culture change
- Provide professional development
- Create space

What have we learned? What's important to people?

- The big needs are real
- It's not always the big things
- We have a problem with property management
- Residents hate the way we talk about them and they generally appreciate where they live
- People want to be safe and have fun

Accomplishment Highlights

- Community Building and Engagement
- Neighborhood Facilities
- Traffic Calming
- Parks
- Neighborhood Oriented Positions (City+)
- Eviction Defense
- Metro Enhancements
- Parks Alive