Public Comment Received
from direct e-mail to staff
Dear Ms. Leakey,

There is a personal issue that I would like addressed in the city's plan. I have an adult son who is severely mentally ill. At times he is homeless due to several different obstacles in his life. Several of these times it has been cold, rainy, snowy, or below freezing temperatures. The first time he was homeless, he made his way to the Salvation Army homeless shelter but was turned away because they said it was a families-only shelter. The last several times, he had no where to go but on the streets with below-zero temps. I would think that a city this size would have a homeless shelter and could certainly afford one. There are many, many homeless people in this city and my son knows several of them by name. Its a sad fact that the mentally ill have no where to go. Comprehensive Mental Health is the only place in this city to go for help - as the hospitals no longer have mental health facilities - and they have deemed my son "too severe" for help. They stand by their decision that he is too dangerous and violent, therefore they will not put themselves in danger by helping him. This issue needs to be addressed as well. If someone is extremely dangerous and violent, then they would need help the most. Putting them out on the street is dangerous for the rest of the citizens of Independence, as well as the individual who ends up homeless and alone in the elements. I can be reached for further information, as well as volunteering for such services as working in a homeless shelter and/or a mental health facility. Please do not hesitate to call for anything. Thank you for listening,
Deborah Pennington
806 N. Tepee Drive,
Independence, MO 64056
Dear Christina,

I read about the request for citizen input. I have been a long time resident of Independence, MO growing up less than a mile away from Truman High School. I left for college to receive a degree in Landscape Architecture from Kansas State University. I moved to Baltimore and thought that is where my now wife and I should live up. I quickly found out the east coast was not home. Moving back we had a choice to move to Kansas, my wife’s originally from Edwardsville, or branch out somewhere else. Our housing search started in Western Johnson County and gradually moved eastward. We looked at forty plus properties considering the size of the home, quality of surrounding neighborhood, and bang for our buck. The house we settled on was again less than a mile from Truman High adjacent to the neighborhood I grew up in. Our home was built in 1964 and sat vacant for several years due to aging owners who lived here for 40 years. It needed some elbow grease and reinvestment in the property, which we took a year to do. The neighbors have started noticing the cheerful yellow door and some of the updated landscaping. It is a work in progress that is still ongoing.

My point is, we take pride in our city and through this past year of moving back and owning a home I realize how lucky we are to be in a city with a big town, small town appeal. As planning takes place on a 5-year consolidated plan here are some initial thoughts.

1.) I want to find a way to change the current zoning/funding ordinances of the sidewalk clause. Our neighborhood sidewalks are falling apart and become a liability for walkers and homeowners. For instance, my wife and I were taking a walk during mid-fall to the neighborhood Walmart Market and one of the sidewalks on 35th street next to Truman High was slicker than snot with algae. Even after being forewarned the sidewalk was slick, she still slipped and fell. Leaving such maintenance up to the individual property is not enough since the sidewalk is for the public use. Funding needs to go to replace and repair sidewalks either through a small property tax increase or through allocating funds using a matching grant program. The owner puts in 50% and the city contributes 50%. It is unfair to me as a property owner to have the maintain the sidewalks and curbs in the ROW that the general public is allowed to freely use.

2.) The City of Independence should expand, improve, and make current a trails map/network. There should be more connectivity from neighborhood to destination and between neighborhood and neighborhood. Clear routes should be accessible and created if not already there. And these routes should be safer and ADA compliant. I did a project once called Bridge to Bridge with Mary Hunt and Jennifer in the Planning Department looking at adding sidewalks to 24 Highway near the Fairmont District. That corridor is not safe to walk along at all and I also question my safety when walking Noland Rd between 35th and 39th street. I walked to Truman High and always took my life into my own hands when crossing 35th street at Emery. There was not a clear pedestrian crossing with warning signals for high school students that only cared about school ending.

3.) Part of this sidewalk and network expansion/connectivity dilemma also requires ways to report areas with sidewalk damage that require repair. These reports needs to be prioritized. When my wife fell, I made about 6 phones calls to different divisions of public works because I had no idea of who to contact to get something
done. Once my message finally got to the right person, the school district was notified and immediately put in some temporary drainage control.

4.) In terms of creating investment and affordable housing, is there something the can be done to encourage reinvestment in the local older neighbors of the 50's, 60's, and 70's. We have a house across the street from us that is listed for $69,500. I am in a position to consider purchasing and renting it at a bare minimum to a struggling family friend with 5 children. But the mechanics aren't quite there yet. Can a program be started or expanded up (like the tax abatement program in Fairmont) that encourage current residents to invest in local neighborhood properties and help provide low income housing/rentals? Are there funds that the city would be willing to contribute towards local neighborhood investors doing something good in their neighborhood? It could even be small things like property cleanup and curb appeal?

5.) The city needs to reeducate citizens about the codes pertaining to fences, retaining walls, outdoor storage and storing of Boats/RV's, ATV's etc. One of our neighbors has a $40,000 pontoon just sitting in the grass near the property line. With me being so new to the neighborhood, I don't feel comfortable knocking and saying "look you need to move your boat." I think something like this could be sent out as a marketing campaign along the lines of "Keep our City Looking Fresh."

6.) Lastly, a position could be added to promote the city moral, happenings, and great place it is through the dedicated staff position of a social media marking person. I get more news from Facebook than anything else. We all need to know Independence is ALIVE and THRIVING.

I know this email has a lot of ideas and I welcome the opportunity to discuss them further and help where possible and feasible to take ACTION to better the lives for all in our City of Independence. I am a doer, a visionary person and when I saw the call for comments in the City Newsletter I just had to say something that can offer a solution or two to improve our city.

Feel free to reply to this email or call me at [removed].

Sincerely,

Jared Pumphrey
Christina Leakey

From:  
Sent:  Wednesday, February 04, 2015 8:20 AM  
To:  Christina Leakey  
Subject:  CITIZEN IDEAS

Christina, We live in the older Queen City addition (behind Back Yard Burgers) as the older citizens pass and new people move in the addition brings in more people with lower income,
I mow grass FREE for two neighbors just to keep my street looking better.
One neighbor is renting as a Hud Housing, she does not work and is raising two children, I have repeatedly asked for a little help with gas money but can maybe get 5 dollars a year.
Since this is in a Hud House is it possible I can be compensated from the Feds. For helping maintain the grass as the Slum Lord does very little to help her.
I feel sorry for her so I help maintain her yard as time permits. I am retired and my wife will retire soon so our income will be lowered soon.

It appears to me that if more neighbors would help mow grass on neglected properties it might help improve the neighborhoods.
If we could get even gas money to help maintain neglected houses it might help the city look better and more might take pride in their homes.

Larry Warner
16060 E Sea Ave
Indep. Mo 64050
one factor that is crucial is transportation. we are getting more apartment complexes that seniors are moving into and as we age- getting around is more complex.

As I understand, density makes services more economical ie police, street maintenance etc. Seniors love independence and the ability to get around is major. Lets seriously consider transportation needs for this expanding population.
DATE: 1/30/15

FROM: Ron Sebring, Retired Pastor, and Citizen of Independence, Missouri

TO: Christina Leakey, Community Development Department

RE: Request of "Citizen Ideas" for Community Development as solicited in "CityScene"

Being a new resident and unfamiliar with the city, these are general ideas and may cover things/programs already in existence.

1. Liberty, MO has a transitional living facility for people to restart their lives. This could be a model for temporary transitional living (if one doesn't already exist) where people with end-of-their-rope needs could learn the skills and receive support to restart their lives.

2. A system of hands-on, "communiversity like," training and education programs (or if something already exists, to improve and expand) to develop employable skills. It could be loosely modeled after academia to have the feel of accumulated credits and "sign-posts" for development. AND WHERE CURIOSITY INDICATES, sprinkle in the "humanities;" there is a certain intellectual maturity that comes from such studies.

3. There is a principle in religion that says something like: "We love to the degree that we know." The degree of a community's collective compassion is generally in proportion to the degree of familiarity. Part of the apathy of a public for homeless and low income needs could be a lack of acquaintance and one-on-one feedback. Perhaps citizens, churches, groups just do not know what's out there. Part of available funding could be directed toward familiarizing the public with the needs in the community, and thus perhaps tap into potential hidden energy and resources.
Christina Leakey

From: 
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2015 10:41 AM 
To: Christina Leakey
Cc: Sharon Seller
Subject: Citizen Planning Ideas

Christina,

I would love to see sidewalks in the Rock Creek area, zip 64052. We only have one sidewalk in front of schools on Hardy. This would benefit the walking initiative Independence is promoting. This neighborhood is so difficult to walk with deep culverts along the roads, hazardous to strollers, dogs, the elderly, small children walking to school, etc. I would love to walk my dog without constantly watching traffic and jumping into ditches and neighbors’ yards. I believe this would make a great difference in improving the area aesthetically and definitely a plus in real estate sales. I think all the old neighborhoods without sidewalks would benefit from this while promoting a healthier lifestyle and possibly a crime deterrent.

Thank you for considering this idea,

Donna Seller
My husband and I have lived in Glendale Gardens for 16 years now. When we moved here, it was a nice and well-kept neighborhood. However, over the past few years, it has gotten progressively worse. The problems? Speeding cars on Cogan Dr., trash and junk in a bunch of the neighbors front and back lawns, loud 'rice-burner' cars racing thru the neighborhood or being VERY LOUDLY worked on in specific driveways at all hours of the night and day, peeling paint on houses, broken/ripped screens, junk cars or trailers sitting in driveways accumulating leaves and debris, multitudes of home break-ins, mail-box bashing (for which the city prosecutor has no desire to help with)....... In all, it is affecting our property value in a negative way and all my husband can say is 'It's Independence, what else can we expect? We just need to move to a different city like Blue Springs or Lee's Summit where the city enforces property maintenance and sound ordinances'.

Please, is there something that can be done to improve the quality of life in our neighborhood? Its just ridiculous that a very nice subdivision can start going downhill without someone trying to keep it from happening.

Thank you
I believe adding sidewalks the entire length of R D Mize road, from Hidden Valley road to 23rd street is essential. Some sections have sidewalks, some do not. I feel it is a critical safety issue for children & adults that must walk those areas without sidewalks. I've lived in this area more than 40 years see people walking in the street even after dark due to no sidewalk. Thanks for your consideration.

Donald Stone
18401 e 27th ter s
Independence, Mo 64057
These may leave the area. Then what?

Olive Garden and Toys R Us and Gordman’s are the only good structures at
Noland Fashion Square at 40 Hwy and Noland Rd.

This area needs either more stores or to be torn down and replaced. (motel or apartments?)

I heard there was something Obama set up for the old US highways such as 40.

Please include this area in your planning.

Yes, I live in Tomasha and am concerned for the community around me.

I do want to thank you for the changes that were made at Phelps and 40.

The road around the Tool Shed is a big improvement! I have faith in Independence.

Sandy Peoples

Please consider the environment before printing this email and any attachments.

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Good morning, Cheryl.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback related to the city's funding priorities.

I have talked with a number of our front-line staff and the overwhelming answer is that utility assistance is by far the greatest need, and the one that we are unfortunately able to assist with a fraction of the time due to lack of funding. The second greatest need is for rent assistance.

We discussed your question regarding areas of over-funding - and from our perspective, we cannot think of any area or service that we would consider over-funded.

Again, thank you for contacting CSL! Have a wonderful day!

Lynn

Lynn Rose
Major Gifts and Grants Manager

Community Services League
404 North Noland Road
Independence, MO 64050
(816) 912-4486 (Direct)
www.cscares.org

...providing solutions that lead to economic stability since 1916!
Cheryl Montenguise

From: Christina Heinen
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2014 10:09 AM
To: Cheryl Montenguise
Cc: Andrew Warlen
Subject: RE: Special Needs Assessment

Cheryl,

Andrew is currently out of the office and requested that I follow up with you.

The Environmental Public Health Division’s greatest un-met service request is for assistance removing large trash items (including downed trees, tires, brush piles, etc.) from private property. Many citizens report an inability to afford to pay someone to remove the items and a lack of transportation and funds to take these trash items to a landfill. Many citizens report a desire for bulk item trash pick-up, a year-round Drop-Off Depot, and/or additional Neighborhood Code Compliance Program clean-ups.

The most requested service is for proactive property maintenance inspections of blighted areas; however, due to current staff levels, our proactive programs (including the Neighborhood Code Compliance Program) have been severely reduced.

In my opinion, the services and areas we have contact with are not over-funded. In fact, I frequently am told by residents of the areas served by CDBG that they feel overlooked and underfunded compared to the southeast portion of the city.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Christina Heinen

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From: Andrew Warlen
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2014 7:49 AM
To: Christina Heinen
Subject: FW: Special Needs Assessment

Could you please provide a response to Cheryl?

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From: Cheryl Montenguise
Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2014 3:54 PM
To: Andrew Warlen; Asher, Cathy; Barry, David; Cripps, Alecia; Francis, Tracy; Mills, Fred; Penrod, Howard; Penrod, Karen; Poitras, Becky; Robinson, Kim; Rose, Lyn; Ruddell, Susan; Simmons, Annette; Snapp, Terry; Still, Penny; Vicki Hon
Subject: Special Needs Assessment

As a valued community partner and recipient of Community Development Block Grant funds, you are providing a service to low-mod income residents in our community. As part of our next five year strategy, your “front line” experiences are a vital part of determining funding priorities over the next five years. Could you take a moment to describe your greatest un-met service request? What is the most requested service and what service do you have the most difficulty providing? Also, do you feel certain services are over-funded? Or certain areas? There is no right or wrong answer, your input will be included in our plan and help map the future commitments of the Neighborhood Services Division.
In 2013, a Community Health Assessment was distributed to households in Independence to help gain a greater understanding of the health issues of Independence residents. Out of the 10,099 households that received a survey, 1,922 households completed surveys allowing for a 19% response rate.

Community Health Assessment Results:

BIKE LANES

- 64% of respondents would find it valuable to have more pathways alongside city streets for cyclists and pedestrians.
- 37% of respondents would find it valuable to have more or better signs and maps that show bike routes.
- 35% of respondents would find it valuable to have more shared lanes on city streets where cars and bikes can safely travel side by side.
- 17% of respondents would find it valuable to have more or better bicycle parking.
- 25% of respondents were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with bike lanes on roads in Independence.
- 25% of respondents were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with bike racks available in Independence.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE ACCESS

- 69% of respondents reported they are satisfied or very satisfied with the access to fresh fruits and vegetables in their neighborhood.
- However, there was major dissatisfaction in access to fruits and vegetables in the 64053 and 64054 zip codes.

SIDEWALKS

- Of the 24% who responded they do not feel safe in their neighborhood, 77.9% of respondents stated it was because of sidewalks in bad shape or absence of sidewalks.
- 43% of respondents reported they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with sidewalks.
- In addition, there was the most dissatisfaction in access to sidewalks in the 64053 and 64052 zip codes.
Hi, Cheryl.

After discussing with managers, I responded to the questions you posed last week.

Could you take a moment to describe your greatest un-met service request?
- For Hope House, our greatest unmet service request is for emergency shelter. In FY14, we had 2,563 unmet requests for shelter.

What is the most requested service and what service do you have the most difficulty providing?
- Again, shelter is a frequently requested service as well as outreach therapy. We almost always have a waiting list for outreach therapy. At the end of November, there were 14 adults and 16 children on the waiting list. We have difficulty meeting clients’ needs for financial assistance and transportation. Related to financial assistance, when clients have past due utility debt and eviction histories, it is difficult for them to leave shelter and secure permanent housing. Hope House is not always able to assist with paying off that debt.

Also, do you feel certain services are over-funded? Or certain areas?
- No.

Carla Keller, MSW
Grant Administrator | Hope House, Inc.
PO Box 577, Lee’s Summit, MO 64063
Direct Line: (816) 257 9357
Main Line: (816) 461 4188
24 Hour Hotline: (816) 461 HOPE (4673)
Fax: (816) 257 9350
hopehouse.net

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From: Traci Francis
Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2014 4:10 PM
To: Carla Keller; Karma Vowell; Ilene Shehan; Mary Anne Metheny; Rita Witt
Subject: FW: Special Needs Assessment

From: Cheryl Montenguise [mailto:cmontenguise@indepmo.org]
Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2014 3:54 PM
To: Andrew Warlen; Asher, Cathy; David Barry; Cripps, Alecia; Traci Francis; Mills, Fred; Penrod, Howard; Penrod, Karen;
Public Comment Received

School District Interviews
Community input on plan.

-----Original Message-----
From: Jennifer Stone
Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2014 10:38 AM
To: Christina Leakey
Subject: summary of data

Christina,

I took the information from all conversations regarding the 5-year Consolidated Plan interviews completed in NW Independence. Most of the conversations were with our neighbors who chose Independence as home after leaving another home country.

As they have been indicating, they appreciate the chance to share information and to be heard. They are always willing to help out and to be part of making a difference in their community.

A couple highlights:
1. Homeownership, regardless of credit or SSN status
2. A family and community center
3. Multi-cultural education and sharing with others
4. A grocery/corner store that supplies needed items, culturally relevant foods, social settings - within walking distance. (El Torrido, the Chinese Store on Truman Rd., and City Market stores are examples.)

Thanks again for asking! Please let me know what further information would be helpful.

Jennifer Stone Manuleleua | Caring Communities Local Investment Commission | LINC Fairmount Elementary School | 120 N. Cedar Avenue | Independence, MO 64053 Mallinson Elementary School | 709 N. Forest Ave. | Sugar Creek, MO 64054 Sugar Creek Elementary School | 11424 Gill | Sugar Creek, MO 64054
phone: 816.521.5405, ext. 41217
e-mail: jstone@kclinc.org<mailto:jstone@kclinc.org> | www.kclinc.org/independence<http://www.kclinc.org/independence>
Independence, Missouri
Five-Year Comprehensive Plan Data Collection
Fall 2014

This is the compilation of results from group and individual conversations with more than 50 adults during November 2014. Interpreters were used during each session, as many of the respondents were Spanish-speakers. Though many also speak Samoan, they did not need an interpreter.

**What does quality of life / family success & stability look like for you and your family?**

*Food, community, culture and family are key values of neighbors in Northwest Independence.*

Upon initially being asked this question, most of the immigrant neighbors had a hard time answering it. They found it hard. This is a summary:

We have so much here. We don’t want to ask for more. Yes, there are things we miss, but we would rather send things back home to our families than to pay more here. We want our family to be safe, have enough food on the table, a safe roof over their heads. We aren’t afraid of hard work. We want that. We want to earn our way. We want to uphold the value of family, as that is everything we have. We want to be true to our customs and culture, as that is what we hold of home. We don’t want to lose that as our children become more Americanized.

They don’t want to ask for help or come across like they have a hand out or are complainers. But after we got down a little deeper, these are the things our community is saying:

- A community center run by the community for the community
  - Social places to gather with others, hold community and family events, community meals, and recreational activities
  - A place to practice and share our cultural traditions and values (dance, food, language, etc.)
  - To know our neighbors and be connected to others and to resources
  - Classes and educational opportunities for our children, youth and us (academic, social, fun, health & wellness, exercise for adults as well, etc.)
  - A place for resources such as a neighborhood handyman or car maintenance
  - Budgeting classes and financial literacy, even business development, parenting and cultural cooking classes
  - Sports in the neighborhood for the entire family ... leagues, games, places to play. (Soccer, volleyball, rugby and running are popular.)
  - Music and dance classes and changes to perform for the community. Outdoor events.
  - A local community gym
  - An affordable preschool close to home. It doesn’t have to be all day or every day, but not across town, and affordable
  - A running group for moms, so “we can run in 5ks of causes we appreciate.”
- Things they enjoy:
  - Anything their family can do together.
  - Cooking with others and for others.
  - Eating family dinner together and eating family meals with others. The act of sharing is an important value.
Note. Community is so key to success for our neighbors. They want to be involved and actively giving to others. They give from their little to increase someone else's life. They want to know people (they left their families in other countries to come here). They want to learn, to help their children learn, to be part of sports and exercise and education. They want a place to gather intentionally for events or classes, socially for fun and casual times, and for times to enjoy their traditions.

Note. Many of our neighbors are working hard. However, they fall just above some line that keeps them from getting help if they run into an unexpected bill or emergency ... or it is not part of their culture to ask outside of the family. As a result, resources for emergency situations or how to plan/prepare for those emergencies would be greatly appreciated. They would also like connections to a trusted, honest neighborhood auto mechanic or handyman who would teach home repair, advice on repairs, and help families. And a place to purchase those needed supplies in the neighborhood would be bonus.

- Work that allows me to make enough money to pay my family bills and send money back home.
  - We have work. We want better paying jobs close to home. (Many of them are working multiple jobs currently.)
  - A chance to own our own businesses.
  - Being able to help my children achieve their educational dreams ... even if I don’t have the best paying job.
  - ... regardless of a disability. I will work so I can support my family, even if I have a disability.
  - Note. For these families, many of the fathers work and the mothers take care of the home and the children. Many times, the husbands work 7 days a week during good weather and work odd and end jobs in colder weather. Or, they work in a factory/warehouse 15 hours a day just to make enough money to pay the bills and send money back home. They aren't turning away work.

- Safe housing. We have safe housing. We want to own a home in our community.
  - Being able to have a short-term resource if I have a surprise bill or repair (so I don’t have to go to the title loan place.)
  - Note. Currently, many would love to purchase a home within NW Independence. For documentation or lack of credit issues, that is a challenge with the current financing options. However, when principals of the educational facilities and landlords are asked, Hispanic families are the best renters and some of the best parents.

- Safe neighborhoods.
  - We feel safe to be out and about.
  - To be safe and secure ... from police, criminals, violence, thieves.
  - Note. They are unsure how to handle scammers, crime, break-ins, or fears. They frequently do not (will not) report crimes as they fear INS and the law, in general.

- Fresh food to make the family meal from scratch ... eaten at the dinner table each night with the whole family.
  - It’s a family value.
  - They don’t eat much processed food, and the stores in the neighborhood do not cater to the diet Islanders or Hispanics (Central and South America) eat.
  - A big box grocery store is not what they are after.
  - A corner store that has the items we need within walking distance; a place to gather socially
  - A small butcher shop (more grassroots in nature)
  - Coffee spot for gathering
  - Note. Many of the ethnic stores were referred to as examples. They have the desired items, and they are also built around a culture of conversation, sharing a few moments with others,
and laughter. El Torrido and the Polynesian store were cited as viable examples. They want
to spend their money in our neighborhood, but it’s not set up in such a way to make that
possible.
• Having my papers in order / or those of another family member.
• To know we are creating a better future for our families back home and our families here.

What are the biggest challenges you and your family face to achieving that?
• Transportation
  o One car or one driver in a family is difficult.
  o If our car breaks down, we are challenged.
  o Gas prices to get to other parts of town for amenities and recreation is a challenge.
• Not knowing people or where to start
• Fear of the law enforcement agencies
• Language / fear of embarrassment or being taken advantage of or looked down upon. They frequently
  know and understand more of the language than given credit for. Listening to, speaking slowly, and
  making your own language blunders go a long way! It’s all about relationships.
• Racial barriers and discrimination ... without even knowing anything about them (i.e. if they can speak
  English well or have documentation or an education)
• There isn’t anything here for our families. We have to travel a distance for quality groceries, supports,
  activities, etc.

What would help you overcome those barriers?
• Changing the reputation of our community. We aren’t the old abandoned, meth-infested
  neighborhood. We are young families with children. We work and have money to spend in our
  community, including housing and recreation. We want to be educated. We are neighbors who love
  being here, who want to be involved and part of our community. We want to be seen and valued as
  neighbors and residents.
• Ease of availability to family supports and amenities
• Get to know neighbors, places, and resources.
• The chance to be heard and listened to more frequently, as viable neighbors with a lot to offer.
  (Jennifer has given us the chance to be listened to in the schools and the community. That has helped
  a lot, and we don’t get that any place else in town.)
• Immigration assistance

How would you like to be involved in making a difference in the neighborhood?
• Independence Ethnic Council
• Changing the reputation of our neighborhood — let the City know we aren’t who they think we are.
  Show them we want to work together.
• Note. They want to host a dinner event for City officials, school personnel, and community decision
  makers to show them who the neighbors are. As one 6th grader said, to show them we are all the same
  even if they can’t see it by looking at us.

Extras.
One story that helps us understand their fear of law enforcement and crime. One young mom came to the US
when her son was 3 because she was so afraid all the time and couldn’t do that anymore. Her paycheck was
cashed at a bank. As soon as she stepped outside, she was forcibly robbed for the money ... in front of the
police. That was the 2nd and last time that happened. She was a college-educated kindergarten teacher at
home. She has lived in homeless shelters, been in violent situations repeatedly, moved across the country and
back in the US, but she knows she and her children are better off now than if they’d stayed home. Her country has in civil war now. Last year, there were times her family was rationed for food because of an increasingly Communist government. She wasn’t allowed to talk to her brother, as he is an engineer for the government and he was not allowed to make contact with anyone. She will likely never be able to return to her home country, and it is still indeed home. And, yet, she knows her family is much better off here. This is only one of the stories like this I’ve heard.

One story to help us understand the value of family and a better life. Not only do families need the money their sons and daughters, etc. send back home for food, they need it for everything. They can’t send ‘care packages’ because it will be stolen upon arrival into the country. They can usually only send money via Western Union, etc. The countries have varying ways of payment for electricity, water, food, etc. But for example, a small jar of peanut butter that we pay $2.50 for is $8 in an island country. Water is in short supply, so the cost is high. Countries that ration your food only give an entire family 4 rolls of toilet paper a week ... my family uses infinitely more than that in a week. They send money at the beginning of every school term to pay for siblings’ school uniforms, books, tuition ... for elementary age.
What are some challenges you face with housing?
I think it would be great to see more housing complexities come to this area. Getting businesses in this area is very hard. I hear many people talk about wanting to stay in the Fort Osage School District but having a hard time whether they want to increase the size of the house or develop the size of the house. There is just limited availability.

What are some challenges you have with finding employment?
When people purchase a house in this area most people realize that they will have a long drive to work. We are starting to see new business come in the area but it is still a very limited business based area. This then creates the problem of low income families and transportation. There are limited resources to bus services that far east in Independence.

What types of service do you feel you need and do you have access to social services?
Service needed
All medical office are needed in this area. The problem of low income families and transportation. There are limited resources to bus services that far east in Independence. We need a big and good hospital here in the west of Independence, also a good grocery stores and places for family recreation like they have in the east of this city.

What are your family's biggest barriers to being self-sufficient?
We are poor people that work hard and we have no access to higher education.

What are your neighborhood's challenges?
I believe the largest problem is to get business to invest in the improvement of the area. Whether building stores, business or home.

Timestamp  | LINC Site Coordinator Name  | Location/City
----------|-----------------------------|------------------
10/23/2014 14:25:04 | Kimball Bingle  | Blue Hills
10/24/2014 11:27:08 | Raoul Lopez Gomez  | Korte
10/27/2014 14:00:34 | Calvin Wainright  | Luf Elementary
10/27/2014 14:02:23 | Calvin Wainright  | Luf Elementary
10/27/2014 14:05:44 | Calvin Wainright  | Santa Fe Trail
10/27/2014 14:08:28 | Calvin Wainright  | Santa Fe Trail
10/27/2014 15:27:29 | Adam McClain  | Truman High School
11/20/2014 09:26:58 | Lindsay Brown  | Van Horn
11/14/2014 17:04:36 | Jennifer Stone  | Fairmount
11/15/2014 16:15:05 | Calvin Wainright  | Luf Elementary
Public Comment Received
Community Church Outreach
December 12, 2014

Christina Leakey  
City of Independence  
111 E. Maple  
Independence, MO 64050

Dear Christina:

Thank you for an opportunity to share my thoughts on the needs that are present in western Independence. My information is largely anecdotal, based on experiences that I have had while being the pastor of Maywood Baptist Church for 30 years.

Maywood's current interaction with western Independence includes hosting High School Equivalency and English Classes programs in partnership with the Independence School District. We also relate to 24 Hispanic families through a Neighborhood Network. In addition, we provide significant service to addicted and/or recovering drug and alcohol addicts. Many of our members volunteer in elementary schools in the area.

In recent years, much attention has been focused on western Independence. The school boundary change was of paramount importance to the area. I can't imagine where we would be as a community, if this change had not occurred. The Northwest Communities Development Corporation, 12 Blocks West, Community Services League, Habitat for Humanity, churches and other organizations have partnered to address issues in western Independence.

There is still much to be done. Without continued attention to the area, I am afraid that we will lose gains that have been attained.

Here are some issues that I feel are of importance to the area:

- Employment - 12 Blocks West has secured the work of Kelly Services in western Independence. Kelly Services has an office two days a week at Maywood Baptist Church and is providing resume writing and interview techniques to prospective employees. Qualified employees are able to work further with Kelly Services to find employment. What if this effort (along with the efforts of Community Services League) was supplemented by a city-wide initiative to employ western Independence persons?
- Education - Adults need education to perform at a higher level in the workforce. Here is another rhetorical question. What if there was a concerted city-wide effort to provide job-skills-education to adults in western Independence? What kind of sustainable change would take place in our community?
- Housing Needs - Housing issues seem to always be present. The NWCDC, 12 Blocks West and other organizations have worked with the City to assist with various housing issues. The goal of many of these initiatives is to provide good neighbors in the area. If you live in a troubled home

Pastor Bob Spradling  •  10505 E Winner Rd  Independence MO 64052  •  816 254-3344  
www.maywoodbaptistchurch.org
has been turned into a good neighbor, you know the effect of such a commitment by the city and other organizations.

- Churches, charities, the Community Services League, etc. have provided rent assistance, utility assistance, and food pantries. I feel these are necessary services to provide. However, I also feel that they are more of a band-aid than a permanent solution.
- Addiction and Recovery - It is possible that I am sensitive to this issue, because much of our work centers in this area. However, from my perspective this is a serious issue in western Independence. I don't know if there is a city response to this issue other than to support those who are attempting to make a difference.

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts with you. If you have any questions, I will be happy to dialogue with you.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Spradling
Pastor, Maywood Baptist Church
Secretary-Treasurer, 12 Blocks West
Public Comment Received
12/15/14 Open House
City Hall
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Brie Rogers</td>
<td>719 Sterling</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brogers1972@gmail.com">brogers1972@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton Sivils</td>
<td>Hillcrest</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sivilsc@hillcrest.kl.on">sivilsc@hillcrest.kl.on</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochelle Parker</td>
<td>CAPA</td>
<td>rparkercapaacares.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toys Wagner</td>
<td>1320 S Silver Ln</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stoekewest85@sbcolocal.net">stoekewest85@sbcolocal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deana Bellamaganya</td>
<td>MyARTS</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dbellamaganya@gmail.com">dbellamaganya@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Goldberg</td>
<td>MyARTS</td>
<td><a href="mailto:agoldberg@jacksonville.org">agoldberg@jacksonville.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Shehan</td>
<td>Hope House</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ishehan@hopehouse.net">ishehan@hopehouse.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tammy Evans</td>
<td>Englewood Business</td>
<td><a href="mailto:b-vogued@gmail.com">b-vogued@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thad McCullough</td>
<td>Englewood Business</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thadmccullough@gmail.com">thadmccullough@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Store</td>
<td>815 S Sterling</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jstore@kclinc.org">jstore@kclinc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veronica Chavez</td>
<td>10219 E US 20 Lane</td>
<td><a href="mailto:palomowoMexicanFood@gmail.com">palomowoMexicanFood@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Dowd</td>
<td>Drumm Farm Center for Children</td>
<td>Lisa, <a href="mailto:Dowd@DrummFarm.org">Dowd@DrummFarm.org</a></td>
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# Community Needs Input
## Open House
12/15/2014 - 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
City Hall Conf. Rm D
Ground Floor

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>John Leigh Ann</td>
<td>Inter-City News</td>
<td>350-304-0111</td>
<td>Johnannegmail.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob Dzic</td>
<td>Habitat for Humanity</td>
<td>461-6557</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Graeff-Viner</td>
<td>S.C. Neighborhood Dinner</td>
<td>816-878-1155</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bark-gruett-viner@gmail.com">bark-gruett-viner@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Delucchi</td>
<td>Indep Health Dept</td>
<td>802-220-7222</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kanddelucci@gmail.com">kanddelucci@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Friend</td>
<td>64057 schools rep</td>
<td>816-877-2443</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brianna Powers</td>
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Open House

Community Needs Assessment

Monday, December 15th, 2014
4:00 to 6:00 pm
City Hall
Ground Floor, Conf. Rm D

AGENDA

4:00 pm  Introductions

4:15 pm-6:00 pm  Acceptance of written and verbal comments on the prioritization of future funding towards projects benefiting low to moderate income residents.
Comments Received:

“We must have more Emergency Shelter for single men and women and transportation for those in need to access the help that is there for them.”

“Small single room shelter communities for the homeless with a community service program would be a great benefit.”

“Higher paying jobs.”

“Redevelopment of the Fairmount Family Business District; Community Center with recreation, education, social spaces and culturally relevant shopping, job creation and training.”

“Employment in the 64057 area; Housing because current bills are too expensive, costs are too high, rent assistance is needed, decent and affordable housing to accommodate a family; Social services like food and utility assistance because some in place are ineffective at really addressing the root issue; Affordable daycare that accommodates a parent’s employment schedule.”

“Independence needs to address problems associated with run-down poorly maintained commercial buildings and store fronts. Codes dealing with safety and health issues in particular need to be inspected prior to the new renter/business owner can rent – landlords need to be held responsible; Maybe time for the city to use eminent domain powers to correct decades of problems.”

“Storm water issues; safety and health issues; 24 Hwy and Northern Blvd behind the car wash and liquor store and car lot – water is blocked at 24 Hwy next to liquor – pipe under 24 Hwy collapsed and water flooding back behind Assembly Church west of Northern Blvd on 6th Street – serious health and safety issues.”

“Growing and building a stronger community by having community events and helping near the small business districts challenges and helping them overcome those challenges”
"A second generation family owned business in Fairmount, one of the biggest challenges we face is the Fairmount area considered run-down and shabby. Property owners along 24 Hwy should be held accountable for abandoned, boarded up, unsafe buildings. Residents of the area are going elsewhere to eat and shop, so we should give our families to eat and shop by helping the Independence Ethnic Council promote the district.” (Para-phrased)
Needs Input – Map activity 12/15/14

Census Tract: 11405.1 Reuse of GEHA Building (Economic Dev)

Census Tract: 115.4, 115.5, 115.6, 123.1, 123.3 and 123.4 Child Abuse Prevention (Public Services)


Hope House support for emergency life-saving services (Public Services)

Renovate Englewood (Economic Dev)

The following were all tagged in the Fairmount area of the map by residents of that area:

Demolish Abandoned boarded up building along 24 HWY (Infrastructure)

New Sidewalks and Streetlights in Fairmount (Infrastructure)

More support for NWCDC (Public Facilities)

Educate on how to be an entrepreneur and open a business (Public Services)

Residential Sidewalks in the Carlisle neighborhood (Housing)

Revitalize 24 HWY in Fairmount into a multi-cultural HUB (Economic Dev)

Commercial Building Renewal Code Enforcement (Economic Dev)

Transitional Housing at 23rd & Blue Ridge (Infrastructure)

Culturally relevant corner grocery store (Public Facility)

Redevelopment of Fairmount Family business district (Economic Dev)

Independence Ethnic Council help in NW (Public Services)

Non-traditional home financing options (Housing)

Family Community Education and Recreation Center in Fairmount (Public Facilities)
Dec. 15th Open House Suggestions for
Activity Description of Desired Use of Grant Funds

"Englewood"??
Emerg Home Repair/Weatherization
Infrastructure - not specified
Truman Gateway Lighting/Aesthetics
Senior Transportation
24 Hwy Corridor/Sidewalks
Indebus/Transportation to Services
Fairmount fitness/sports/family center/events
Housing - not specified
Rent/Utility Assistance/Foreclosure Prevention
Bike Rental/Racks
"Publicize this program"??
Crime Prevention
"NW Indep" ??
Public Services- not specified
Social Services HUB
Restore Historic Fairmount Bus District/Monument/Flags
Demo Abandoned Bldgs
Public Facility Imp - not specified
Domestic Violence Programs/Fac Imp
Employee/Job Training
Fairmount sidewalks/Curbs/Streetlights
Meal/Food Programs
Homeless Services/Housing
Daycare
Code Enforcement of Landlords
Street Lighting
Code Compliance
Commercial Code Compliance in Fairmount
Fairmount Grocery Store
Bus Stop Shelters
NW Indep Parks
Web based donation listing
Low Income/Multifamily Housing
Truman Gateway Business Dev.
Drainage in 64053
Sidewalks
Mental Health and Drug Treatment/Housing

Clothing needs
Homebuyer Education
Ethnic council/education, etc.
Tax Incentive for new small business
Youth Sports
Fairmount Neighborhood cleanup
"Lack of Availability of services" ??
Utility Improvements
Police Station in Fairmount
Displaced Youth Housing/Training
Energy Eff Homes
Disabled Housing
Senior Housing
Public Comment
IHA/City Staff Consultation Meeting
January 13, 2015
January 13, 2015  Tuesday

IHA / Com Dev Staff Discussion of Needs

Kathleen Dudley  Tucker Heights Property Manager
Mary C. Vasquez  PH Director Office Assistant
Sheila Jester  Director of Public Housing
Ed Miller  Exec. Director

Marcia McCalla  Southview Manor Property
Cindy Westhoff  Pleasant Heights Property Manager
Cheryl Montague  Community Dev Dept. Program Spec.

chakey@chakey.com  Christina Chakey
indepmo.org  Marion Snyder  HAI Central Office
January 13, 2015

Independence Housing Authority Offices

IHA / Com Dev Dept. Staff Discussion of Needs of Public Housing Residents

Top priority is job training for most Public Housing (PH) residents that lack job skills.

There is a lack of paid training programs in the area.

Very few PH residents participate in the Employment Income Deferment Program (EID), which they qualify for after 50 weeks of unemployment. When enrolled in this program 100% of income is excused for one year and 50% for a second year (to ensure they can retain public housing.) IDA staff feel there is a disconnect between Job Programs and residents of Public Housing.

Many are refused housing due to the rule of No felony in 5 years/No Prison time served regulation.

The average of PH residents who are working is around $9.00-$9.50/hr, which is not a living wage.

Public Transportation does not accommodate late hour work shifts and is not convenient for those in jobs off the bus lines.

There are approximately 45-50 Hocker Heights residents still receiving a Utility allowance monthly payment, however no new residents may apply and this program will be phased out as the last participants vacate their units. Utility assistance programs by local non-profits will be facing a larger number of requests as these benefits are phased out.
Public Comment Received
Public Hearing
March 19, 2015
City Hall
PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI
CDBG & HOME Programs

Notice is given that on or before May 15, 2015 the City of Independence will submit the 2015-19 Five Year Consolidated Plan and 2015-16 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Act programs, authorized by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A draft of the Annual Action Plan will be available for viewing beginning March 19, 2015 in the Community Development Department, City Hall, 111 E. Maple, during regular business hours, and online at http://www.ci.independence.mo.us/ComDev/Default.aspx.

Interested persons are encouraged to attend a Public Hearing scheduled for March 19, 2015 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm in Conference Room D (ground floor), City Hall, 111 E. Maple. Comments regarding the plan may also be submitted in writing to Christina Leakey, 111 E. Maple Independence, Missouri 64050. All written comments received by April 2, 2015 will be addressed in the final Action Plan document.

If accommodations are required due to a disability, limited English proficiency, or other special need, contact Christina Leakey at 816.325.7397. Si las comodidades son requerido debido a la inabilidad, a la habilidad inglesa limitada, o a la otra necesidad especial, el contacto Christina Leakey en 816.325.7397

The City estimates it will receive approximately $759,326 in CDBG Program funding and $308,121 in HOME Program funding for the 2015-16 Program Year and proposes to allocate this funding towards priority housing and community needs of low and moderate income persons as follows:

CDBG
Administration $151,865.00
Housing
   Code Compliance $ 70,000.00
   Home Rehabilitation $123,563.00
Economic Development
   Micro Enterprise Business Assistance and Special Economic Development Activities $300,000.00
Public Services
   Palmer Senior Nutrition Center $ 25,000.00
   Independence Meals on Wheels $  5,000.00
   Stone Church Community Dinners $  6,000.00
   Hope House Shelter Food Program $  6,000.00
   Salvation Army Emergency Assistance Program $  6,800.00
   Salvation Army Crossroads Shelter $ 11,000.00
   NWCDC Senior Nutrition Program $ 10,000.00
   Hillcrest Ministries Transitional Housing $ 17,798.00
   Child Abuse Prevention Assoc. Healthy Families Program $  5,000.00
   CSL Emergency Assistance Program $  9,000.00
   Independence Ethnic Council $  5,300.00
   Mother’s Refuge Transitional Housing $  7,000.00
Total $759,326.00

HOME
Administration $ 30,812.00
Com. Hsg Development Organization (CHDO) $ 46,218.00
Com. Hsg Development Organization (CHDO) Operating $ 15,406.00
Single & Multi-Family Housing Projects $ 215,685.00
Total $ 308,121.00
March 19th, 2015  
City Hall Conf. Room D  
**Public Hearing on 2015-16**  
**Proposed Funding**

**Please Sign In:**

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<tr>
<td>Rmr. Sarah Wimpeley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rev.sarah@bkgdal.net">rev.sarah@bkgdal.net</a></td>
<td>816/509-5450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. DeLuccie</td>
<td><a href="mailto:karendeluccie@gmail.com">karendeluccie@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>cim 16822072</td>
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CDBG & HOME Programs Public Hearing

March 19, 2015

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

City Hall

Conference Room D, Ground Floor

Agenda

- Welcome
- Review of FY 2015-16 CDBG proposed projects
- Public Comments Accepted —None Rec’d
- Adjournment