

**Irvington Town Hall Meeting
Public Safety and Code Enforcement Discussion
February 21, 2004**

Facilitator: Dale Tippit- Indianapolis Police Department

Discussion:

Comments have been listed topically. Many of the statements included more than one topic and are, to the extent possible, listed where emphasis was placed. There is no prioritization in the listing.

Alleys:

1. **Maintain alleys** to prevent people from driving on yards.
2. Repair **chuckholes**.

Aggressive Animals:

1. Children's **safety from aggressive animals**.
2. Poor **turnaround time for responses** regarding animals.

Crime:

1. Introduce neighborhood **crime watch programs**.
2. **Property crime and vandalism** occurs along Washington Street.
3. Suspicious activities in **parks**.
4. **Prostitution** occurring, especially along Washington Street and in the Irvington Plaza.
5. **Trespassing** occurs in vacant houses at night.
6. **Irvington Plaza** has significant police activity, prostitution, semi trucks in parking lots and poor lighting.
7. Visible **narcotic activity** along Washington Street.
8. Safety concerns at **apartment complexes**.

Diversity:

1. Initiate **outreach** to increasing Hispanic population to encourage participation in community.
2. Meetings and special events should be in **English and Spanish**.

Homelessness:

1. Closing of the Potter's House **displaced people**.
2. Open a facility or programs at churches to provide **options for the homeless**.
3. There is a '**squatter community**' in property behind Kenmore and industrial buildings that caused a fire last year.

Housing Condition & Vacant Housing:

1. There is a need to get **absentee landlords to maintain properties**. Many of the deteriorating houses may belong to absentee landlords.
2. **Promote homeownership**.

Visit <http://www.historicirvington.org/> for more information regarding the plan.

3. **Poor housing condition** exists especially south of Washington Street.
4. Look at the possibility of neighborhood **buying substandard houses** so the community can revitalize and reinvest to protect the neighborhoods.
5. Determine what **grant money** is available for neighborhood revitalization.
6. **Educate the neighborhoods** regarding housing opportunities, programs and options.
7. **Educate realtors** on various loans and grant money opportunities and reduce 'rent to own' properties.
8. There are properties where the **owner refuses to sell** as house sits vacant.
9. Dangerous houses need to be **boarded up**.
10. **Cheap housing** tends to be substandard.

Lighting:

1. **Improve lighting** near apartments, commercial and Irvington Plaza.

Parking:

Incorporate diagonal parking instead of parallel near apartments allowing sight lines.

Pedestrian Safety & Access:

1. Improve **street crossings** especially across Washington Street.
2. **Buffer pedestrian traffic** from vehicles along Washington Street.
3. Garbage and **objects have been thrown** at bicyclists and pedestrians.
4. Some **sidewalks** are dangerous and in poor condition.
5. Improve **accessibility for people with disabilities** throughout Irvington.

Pennsy Trail:

Be proactive and define ways to **promote safety and reduce crime** on proposed Pennsy trail.

Railroad:

Regularly cut tall grass along railroad tracks.

Representation of All Neighborhoods:

1. Ensure the **Council represents all of Irvington** even outside of the historic areas.
2. Create an **umbrella organization** allowing various organizations to communicate more effectively.

Speedrome:

1. Eliminate **auto repair uses in street**.
2. Eliminate **racecars using street to practice** and warm-up.

Research For Next Committee Meeting:

1. War on Abandoned Housing information- where is this process at, what will the results be?
2. Diagonal Parking- process on changing parallel parking to diagonal
3. Pennsy Trail update.

Visit <http://www.historicirvington.org/> for more information regarding the plan.

4. Other neighborhood organizations- how are neighborhoods able to purchase houses in order to protect and reinvest?
5. Grant Money- Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership funds- how can we be educated neighborhood as to what money is out there?

People who have agreed to be on the Public Safety and Code Enforcement Committee:

Facilitator: Paul Tippit

Members: Lisa Bennett, Scott Drum, Michael Harmon, Dean Hvidston, Doug Hvidston, Dean Ilingworth, Jonathan Katz, Jennifer Meehan Mills, Joyce Newland, Jacque Quick, and Wendy Sellers-Lyons.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Irvington Neighborhood Plan Public Safety and Code Enforcement Committee will be Thursday, March 18 at 5:30 p.m. at Irvington United Methodist Church.

Notes taken by Nicole Mueller, Department of Metropolitan Development, City of Indianapolis