

Community Round Table Summary Report – January 22, 2016

Advancing an Urban Agenda

On Friday, January 15, 2016 the Unity Breakfast planning committee held a round table discussion open to the public with Mr. Harvey Hollins, Mayor Steve Gawron, Mayor Gary Nelund, Mayor Kim Sims, and over 80 present. Dr. DeAnna Burt-Johnson, Vice President for Academic Services at Baker College served as the moderator. From the discussion that took place at the 11 round tables



Photo courtesy Mlive Muskegon

participating the following was gathered as action steps towards improving issues facing the urban communities in the greater Muskegon area. We hope this dialogue is informative and points to solutions that can be implemented locally. The Unity Breakfast planning committee will evaluate further sessions or follow-ups to this conversation. For further information contact Trynette Lottie Harps, Dean of Community Outreach at Muskegon Community College at Trynette.Lottie-Harps@muskegoncc.edu or 231-777-0559. The Unity Breakfast planning committee members include

Tim Bracey, County of Muskegon
Ed Garner, Muskegon Area First
Mike Helsen, Baker College
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Topic 1 - ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) citizens

Table 1

- Workforce Development initiative that worked on selective targeted areas in Areas. We need Workforce Targeted Training.
 - o Figure out how to get the word out about initiatives
 - o Do we know where the ALICE population areas are?
 - o Make sure you get the “bang for your buck” pockets of quality
 - o Training needs to include technical training.
 - o What entity would get the funding to ??? take training?
 - o United Way would look

- Make more technology Friendly training
- Employer Research-Network is needed where employers band together to help individuals connect to resources.
- How to identify actual aptitudes to their true skills? How to access it and motivate it?

Table 2

1. Expand bus service – affordable and areas
2. Churches get info out regarding services (gap transit service ins.) 3rd party organization, use van insurances
3. Employees with records – program to include available jobs, promote extra p. training
4. Outreach for skilled training programs – easier access
5. Involve private sector to help – child care
6. Driver Responsibility Laws
 - work out pay plans
 - help through the system

Table 3

- Ease to certify/remove barriers for child care
 - Subsidy
 - State assistance for childcare (more!)
 - Clear network of resources
 - Kzoo Ready 4
 - Early Childcare literacy activities-access
 - Placed in Childcare
 - Subsidies for families to send their children to centers
 - Graduated system
 - Graduated benefit timeframe.
 - Higher Ed Counseling for post-grad realities
 - Mentor/internships
 - Coaching/ companies
 - Transportation
 - Shared investment employers

Table 4

- Education – training as a bridge
- Living wage
- Child team-afterschool programs
 - Extending support
 - Planned parenthood
- Community Service

Table 5

- Centralized Job training resources
- Build the desire – empower people
- Coordinate w/private companies
- Promote within
- Barriers on those with criminal record.

Table 6

- Need to know Base of Power
 - o Who do we say it to?
 - o Breakdown silos
- Celebrate ethnic diversity in communities
- Training at the government leadership level
- Go where the people are, who we serve

Table 7

- Transportation
- Daycare
 - o Affordable
 - o Accessible
- Job Readiness
 - o Training
 - o Connections
 - o Soft skills employability
- Labor programs
- Have best practices model
 - o Communication
 - o Cooperate
 - o Collaboration

Table 8

- Soft skill training in K – 12
 - o Attendance
 - o Drug Screenings
- A Day at MCC – broaden to elementary around the county
- Muskegon Promise for Adults
- Access to info on Assistance distribution
- Student Mentoring visits to manufacturing

Table 9

- Income inequality
- Raise minimum wage
- Rebuild infrastructure
- Transportation needs
- Stop red lining
- Job training/education
- Outside money/Tourism companies
- Wrap around services

Table 10

- Communicate
- Cooperate
- Collaborate

-towards strategic planning for implementation of defined needs that are affordable, accessible to ensure quality of life for ALL -> ALICE

Table 11

1. Programming focused on education people in a way that makes them more employable
2. Get folks focused on literacy
3. Change system to ensure people are not enabled to be under-employed
4. Church programs focused on educating
5. Encourage those w/initiative and drive to keep going regardless of walls
6. Self-esteem building –confidence building
7. Crimes – old – get them in a position to expunge record.

Table 12

- Affordable Housing
 - o Rent is too much
 - o Help them buy their own
- Job are obviously being filled so they are needed.
- Houses are cheaper elsewhere
- Wants to compare folks
- Make sure jobs are age-appropriate
- Lack of Education
 - o Help gather skills
 - o Better Education
 - Better life mgmt.
 - Goals
 - Focus on Success
 - o Individuals must take control of themselves
 - o Literacy is most basic

Topic 2 - Public Safety Round Table

Table 1

- Community Walks
 - a. Need Champions
 - b. Neighborhood Based
 - c. Clean Ups
 - d. Health 1 in 21
 - e. Walk with a cop
 - f. Daily Walking clubs

Table 2

- GREAT - Gang Resistance Education and Training
- Public Policy after Public Safety Consult
- Countywide, public officials must commit \$\$ to public safety
 - a. Officials must commit to public safety
 - b. Community needs to support too!
- Public Safety walking in the community
 - a. Patrol with trust
- Public Safety impromptu appearances in public places, events

Table 3

- Focus on Youth through diversion programs/Prisoner re-entry
- Community conversation about Race/Diversity Training
- Community policing
- Build trust by being familiar
- Blight Reduction

Table 4

- Should be uniformity
- Transparency
- Too much latitude w/searches
- Training for youth
- Training for officers
- Diversifying police force
- Community engagement
- Culture of gangs
- Diversifying internal affairs
- Holistic approach to entire family
- Need church engagement

Table 5

- Recruit for local Law Enforcement (from community)
- Establish Trust w/Law Enforcement
- Neighborhood involvement
 - a. Communication and cooperation
- Educate Public Safety about community

Table 6

- Muskegon Gang Initiative
 - a. Expand this coordinated initiative
- More funding for Law Enforcement – \$\$\$\$
 - a. Technology & officers
- More visibility of law enforcement in community in community conversations that build awareness and trust. Regular dialogue; not just a forum to react to situation.
- Expand programs that build relationships between public safety & and trust. Regular dialogue; not just a forum to react to situation.
- Expand programs that build relationships between public safety & youth!

Table 7

1. Need to be more collaborative with other communities
 - a. “Choose to Live” – knowing how to react to law enforcement, etc.
2. Educate community on what Law Enforcement has to deal with daily.
3. Ratio of Racial Representation & cost of educating new officers
4. Communities taking ownership & how do you start?
 - a. Cadet system within high schools
5. Build trust between Police and Community and Youth!

Table 8

- Build trust by hiring from in the community
- Officers must respect people we/you serve.
 - a. Respect is a two-way street
- Funding used responsibly – more boots on the street.
- Recruitment & Retention of minority officers at attract*talent
- Disinvestment in the community
- Come to events not in the role as officer.

Table 9

- Create a communication program that improves resident/P.S./Media communications.
- Focus on more transparency @ police level
- Programs between police & young people.
- Talk more positively about our communities

Table 10

- Funding – many municipalities had to receive cuts when city & county budgets dwindled during recession
- A millage just to replace lost budget.
- If it is not adequately funded where would we receive funding other than from a millage?
- Without presence of law enforcement, problems rise.
- Does State Police presence take away what local police concentrate on?
- It involves getting the community involved.
- Improve relationships with community somehow.
- Community Policing is important
- Need to identify and confront barriers to hiring minorities to public safety.

Table 11

- Police communicate better w/young people
- Police need to do a better job of educating people of who the problems are.
- Safety Depts step up and drive communication
- Lack of trust spills down to police.
- Court(?)/P.S. need to relate better to citizens
- More transparency & better communication
- Fear also exists from the other side.

Table 12

- Trust:
 - a. Football issue – went deeper than a game. MHPS lost 75 students.
 - b. No acknowledgment or discussion by Police.
 - c. Too much disrespect toward M.H.
- Focus on Media
 - a. How they talk about crime & public safety.
- Negative Feelings always discussed.