

Promoting Equitable Development: Identifying the Relative State of Memphis Neighborhoods

Abstract

Memphis, a city with a rich yet complex history, grapples with longstanding infrastructural deficiencies. These issues are deeply rooted in systemic racist practices that were exacerbated through zoning practices like redlining and racial covenants in the 1930s. Even after the Fair Housing Act of 1968, the ramifications of these practices perpetuate racially segregated and neglected neighborhoods. Despite the pressing need for assistance, the city government's lack of support exacerbates the challenges of infrastructural weaknesses as well as community engagement. This paper proposes a comprehensive analysis utilizing the Memphis Open 311 database to gain insight into neighborhood conditions. Despite limitations in data categorization, including duplicates and missing values, we leverage service request data to identify clusters of specific issues, illuminating areas with pronounced infrastructural challenges and systemic inequities. Through this analysis, we seek to foster increased community engagement and government involvement, particularly in marginalized communities struggling with inadequate infrastructure and historical neglect. This research aims not only to enhance the understanding of community issues labeled by the 311 data set but also to advocate for tangible interventions to address systemic issues and promote equitable development.