

ECID BOARD MEETING TALKING POINTS

Constituent Concerns & Staff Discussion Guide

OVERVIEW

The following talking points summarize key constituent concerns organized by theme. These points are intended to guide board discussion on community priorities and potential action items.

1. HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

- **District 4:** Vacant and boarded-up properties are a top concern; constituents request county intervention.
- **District 4:** Code enforcement needed for abandoned lots near 8th Street (safety/crime concerns).
- **District 4:** Positive feedback on home improvement grants—constituents report neighborhood improvements.
- **District 1:** Senior center repairs needed vs. pickleball court proposal—constituent preference for senior facilities.

Discussion Note: Consider expanding home improvement grant programs to District 1 and other areas.

2. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- **Across Districts:** Strong demand for small business support, startup funding, and low-rent storefronts.
- **District 1 & 3:** Questions about equitable access to incentives—national chains prioritized over local entrepreneurs.
- **District 3:** Specific request for support of Black entrepreneurs opening businesses.
- **District 2:** Inquiry about incentives for cultural/North African cuisine restaurant development.
- **District 4:** Food desert concern—no grocery store; residents must travel far for basic needs.

Discussion Note: Review incentive programs to ensure equitable access for minority and local entrepreneurs.

3. INFRASTRUCTURE & PUBLIC WORKS

- **District 2:** Broken sidewalks creating hazards, especially for seniors.
- **District 2:** Need for better lighting and crosswalks near schools.
- **District 1:** Bilingual signage needed (Latino businesses generate significant district revenue).

4. PLANNING & AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- **District 3:** Concern about affordable housing requirements in new developments.
- **District 4:** Affordable housing shortage preventing younger residents from living in the district.
- **District 2:** Dilapidated warehouse site needs demolition.

5. HEALTHCARE ACCESS

- **District 1:** Insufficient medical specialists; 40-minute drive to Mercy Hospital.

Discussion Note: Explore partnerships to attract medical specialists to District 1.

6. COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- **District 1 & 4:** Fall Fair cancellation—constituents requesting replacement community events.
- **District 1:** Request for more summer kids' programs.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTIONS

1. Form a working group on equitable business incentives.
2. Evaluate expansion of home improvement grants county-wide.
3. Prioritize District 4 food access solutions (grocery store attraction/incentives).
4. Develop replacement events for cancelled Fall Fair.
5. Review sidewalk repair schedules with senior safety in mind.