

# 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.