



*Bridging communities through conversation*

## **Clarke Square Representative of Public Safety & Resident Listening Circles - Report**

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## Executive Summary

The Frank Zeidler Center for Public Discussion believes that an important step in repairing relationships between law enforcement and communities in Milwaukee is to come together in spaces that provide the opportunity for facilitated, face-to-face communication to co-create resident-based solutions. This specific Zeidler dialogue involved listening circles that are professionally facilitated by Zeidler Center facilitators, and co-designed by partners to fit the needs of the Clarke Square community. The dialogue took place at Journey House in Milwaukee on November 9, 2016. The dialogue focused on three issues brought up by residents from Clarke Square, namely prostitution, drugs and speeding.

Participants experienced both structured and unstructured portions of dialogue. Through timed facilitation, this method allows participants to respectfully share their personal perspectives and learn the perspectives of others. These listening circles create a platform for greater mutual trust and understanding, essential for establishing a constructive, collaborative environment for change.

During this dialogue, Zeidler Center facilitators asked all session participants the following questions:

1. *“Residents have brought to our attention several challenges faced by the neighborhood, including drugs, speeding and sex trade (prostitution). Talk about a personal experience when your life has been affected by these challenges. If possible, please talk about an experience or experiences in the past 30 days.”*
2. *“This is a two-part question. What is one thing that you think should start, stop or continue to increase the quality of life in the neighborhood? What is one thing that you can do to contribute to that goal?”*
3. *“This is a two-part question. What motivates you to contribute to the efforts to increase the quality of life in the neighborhood? What holds you back?”*

In response to the first question, many residents established clear connections between different issues, such as between drug dependency and prostitution, or drug trafficking and speeding, thus underlining the need for a holistic approach to the issues faced by the community to achieve sustainable results. A great number of participants shared individual stories of altercations with prostitutes, including some involving children, and problems with condoms in the streets. Other participants mentioned being the witness of abuse of prostitutes. Regarding speeding, many participants shared being worried about the disrespect of traffic laws by cars in Clarke Square, calling for more policing and the use of speed bumps. In relation to drugs, participants mostly stressed the challenges that drug deals and drug use (needles) are creating for residents of Clarke Square. Many residents underlined their concerns for the children in the neighborhood, mentioning that some have been stopped by prostitutes, or found condoms and needles by the school. Due to the criminality in the neighborhood, many participants shared their fear of going outside both during the day and at night.

In response to the second question, many participants focused on the police and resident relationships. Although many shared wanting to continue or start collaborating more with police officers to fight criminality in Clarke Square, some shared both feelings of frustration and hopelessness as challenges to improve police – resident relations. Many participants called for intra-community relationship building in order to create a greater sense of togetherness and unity against the issues faced in the neighborhood. Block parties and gatherings were suggested as ways to deepen connections between neighbors. Access to property – ownership of residence, and beautification of the neighborhood were mentioned by several participants as ways to discourage criminal behavior and encourage residents’ participation in community

groups. Several participants stressed the need for a greater police presence and action, mostly via ticketing and bike patrols.

In response to the third question, many participants mentioned that their motivations came from the pride in living in Clarke Square, the love of the neighborhood, and, for home owners, the financial interested in maintaining property value. In addition, many participants recognize the role that engaged residents have in motivating others to join forces in efforts to improve the quality of life. Community dialogues like this one were recommended to continue by several participants in order to brainstorm ideas to improve the situation of Clarke Square. A great number of participants mentioned being motivated by the idea of living in a 'safer Clarke Square', relating this idea to the well-beings of families and children. A few participants mentioned faith as a motivation. Regarding the hold backs, many identified their fear of collaboration with the police as a great obstacle to getting involved, mostly due to the fear of retaliation. Other participants reported some communication challenges between police and residents, mostly due to the fear of retaliation as well, as another challenge to participating in efforts to improve the quality of life in Clarke Square. Lack of resident engagement, sometimes linked to time constraints, was mentioned as another hold back for some, while others stressed the challenges that slumlords and disrespectful neighbors pose to the improvement of the community.

During the connected conversation, participants continued speaking about police and resident relations, safety issues ad community connections. Regarding the feedback, 51 participants turned back their feedback forms. The feedback form responses can be found at the end of the document. Overall, feedback form answers were reflective of the small group responses. The comparative analysis of pre and post surveys for the measurements of trust and hope shows an increase in the level of trust in Public Safety Representatives and hope for the future of the relations and the improvement of the quality of life in Clarke Square.

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## Participants' Answers - Analysis

**Round One Question:** *“Residents have brought to our attention several challenges faced by the neighborhood, including drugs, speeding and sex trade (prostitution). Talk about a personal experience when your life has been affected by these challenges. If possible, please talk about an experience or experiences in the past 30 days.”*

*“We are the voice of the parents. The drug houses are used for prostitution and the kids at school can see what’s going on.”*

*“I am uncomfortable when my wife walks the kids to school. The prostitutes are out early. Drug deals are out in the open. We try not to see what’s going on out of fear.”*

*“It’s tough for the police because the prostitutes are also victims and we’re trying to help them too. When we pick them up they just get quickly and get back out there. A lot of them need money to support their drug addiction.”*

It is important to notice that all participants had personal experiences to share about either prostitution, speeding or drugs, and most of the participants had experiences with all of the issues aforementioned. In addition, a great number of participants, both residents and police officers, clearly identified points of connections between these three singular issues such as the link between prostitution and drug addiction – *“For me, I see it [drugs] fueling the sex trade. I see people who are addicted and hopeless, they turn to prostitution for survival”* -, the link between prostitution and physical abuses, or the link between speeding, dangerous driving behavior and drug dealing. For the readability of the report, each issue will be treated in a different category yet the consequences of prostitution, drug and speeding will be analyzed together, for most negative outcomes arise from a multiplicity of issues rather than one in particular.

### 1.1 Incidents Involving Prostitution

A considerable number of participants mentioned daily struggles with prostitutes, both during the day and at night. Several participants reported being in situations when *“[p]rostitutes just get into my car when we are stopped at a stop sign or trying to park. It happened twice this week”*, while others underlined the difficult co-habitation with prostitutes and “private property”: *“When I leave my car in front of the house, prostitutes will sit on my car door. I yell at them to get off the car and they ignore me. Or as soon as I leave they just come back.”*

The co-existence of prostitution and children in the same neighborhood was very present in the testimonies of participants, both highlighting moral problems as well as physical aggressions. Parents residents in Clarke Square reported that *“[t]here are many children walking, and these women even suggest things to the kids.”* A police officer participant shared the story of a mother who *“[...] said that her daughters were outside in front of a business waiting for the school bus. A prostitute started screaming at her kids. She was threatening them and saying that this was “her corner” and that they could not stand here the girls explained that they were students waiting for the school bus but the prostitute did not believe them and continued to harass*

*the girls*". Similarly, teachers participating mentioned being worried for children at school and concerned about the negative consequences of prostitution presence for the children's stability and development: *"I approach the ladies [prostitutes] and ask them to move away from the school. I have found condoms by the school and recently a kid picked up a needle."*

A great number of participants, while upset about the presence of sex trafficking in the neighborhood recognized the distress that many prostitutes are facing: *"We can arrest the prostitutes but they will be back on the street in just a few hours. It is hard because we also recognize that they are victims as well in the situation."* Several participants specifically mentioned violence against prostitute, both from supposed customers and pimps happening in Clarke Square regularly: *"The pimps of these girls are abusive and beat on them. You can hear it."*; *"I recently received a call from a woman who was incensed that she witnessed a nude woman being beaten on the front lawn of a known drug and house of prostitution. She later called back to indicate that law enforcement never showed up"*; *"I witnessed a prostitute get raped"*.

## **1.2 Speeding & Disregard of Traffic Laws**

Traffic violations were greatly present during the dialogue as participants shared numerable accounts of speeding and car accidents, sometimes involving injuries, *"Nobody stops at the stop sign here on the corner [points to a corner presumably near the school] they drive right through it at high speed."* According to participants, the situation is extremely serious in Clarke Square: *"I was hit in my squad car, by someone running a red light. I wasn't hurt, luckily. I see reckless autos all the time, and fatal accidents in the neighborhood. We have an inability to enforce violations. It's concerning and tragic and unnecessary."*

For some, there has been an increase in violations and issues linked to disregard of traffic law that needs to be addressed: *"I have lived in this neighborhood for a long time – 17 years. For a while the neighborhood was clean and quiet and now there are a lot of problems again. There are too many speeding cars. A car even hit me and drove away."* Some participants were calling for changes to happen while trying to find solutions for the speeding issues such as a greater police presence to increase the number of tickets, or the installation of speed bumps. One participant yet mentioned encountering obstacles in getting things done: *"I have called about having a speed bump slow that down. You have to have a certain number of people sign [a petition/agreement paperwork], and residents have to pay, and I think that's terrible."*

## **1.3 Drug Deals and Needles in Clarke Square**

The situation of Clarke Square regarding drug trafficking was described as extremely alarming by participants, where *"people are selling drugs in broad daylight"*, Linking the presence of drugs to the addiction level in the neighborhood, one participant stated that: *"[...] the heroin and fentanyl epidemic is crazy. I haven't seen a drug epidemic like I've seen with this heroin epidemic. District 2 is leading the city and county in heroin overdose deaths."*

Many participants underlined problems related to the presence of drugs in the neighborhood, namely drug trafficking and the presence of needles in gardens, street and even on school property in some cases: *"I do pick up needles on our playground. Sometimes our children find them first"*. Specific traffic violation have been identified by some participants as intrinsically related to the presence of drugs: speeding and illegal parking. One participant underlined the less obvious consequences of daily drug deals during encounters between residents and individuals involved in drug trafficking: *"People block the street with their cars when they are buying drugs or talking to people. If you honk or ask them to move they get mad."*

## 1.4 Public Health & Safety Issues

Participants underlined the lack of cleanliness in Clarke Square as a major problem in the everyday life of residents *“I wish it [the neighborhood] was a little bit cleaner than it is.”* A few participants focused on the behavior of dog owners in the neighborhood, explaining that *“I’m upset about so much dog poop on the sidewalk and people who let their dogs just do their business in front of my house and don’t clean it up.”* Some participants reported that the state of some parts of the neighborhood, in this case Greenfield Avenue, has gotten worse and worse over the years *“Greenfield Avenue has gotten worse, speeding, not keeping block clean, not putting trash where it should go but rather the streets”*.

The conditions of the neighborhood were brought up by some participants regarding public safety, specifically when it comes to streetlights: *“During the summer in my neighborhood the streetlights were out for many weeks. Some neighbors tried to put bright lights where the alley meets the street and the lights were just stolen.”* Such testimony brings to light how poor lighting conditions in the neighborhood can aggravate already existing issues such as crimes, drug trafficking and prostitution. Poor lighting can also aggravate speeding as pedestrians becomes even harder to see at night.

## 1.5 Crime, Violence and Fear of Residents

Crimes – *“I was waiting for the bus on National Avenue before work and I got robbed at gunpoint”,* especially car theft – *“About two weeks ago, several cars got their windows broken. These events occur recurrently”,* were highlighted by numerous participants as a great problem faced in the area. The age of some of the delinquents was mentioned by a few participants as an exacerbating factor: *“I am also worried because I got my truck stolen and the criminals were kids of just 13 and 12”*. In addition, some participants stressed the importance of renters and slumlords in the situation of the neighborhood: *“these slumlords are the worst too, we have a few problematic neighbors that are causing all the problems.”* As mentioned by a police officer participant, everyone is touched, *“I don’t think anybody’s not affected by the crimes. I was raised here and have been affected by it too. I had an experience with a recent situation where the person breaking the law was a childhood friend, which made the situation hard.”*

Due to the current situation of Clarke Square regarding crimes, prostitution, drugs and speeding, numerous participants shared their fear of going outside in neighborhood. First, several participants shared spending a very limited amount of time outside out of fear of being the target of a crime or the by-standing victim of a dangerous situation: *“I live in fear I never leave the house.”* One participant explained how the situation has been degrading regularly over the last few years, making it harder and harder for residents to live a normal life: *“Over the past fifteen years I have lived in this neighborhood and I enjoy gardening. I have in the past couple of years spent less time doing so because I am afraid to do so. When I am outside I always have to be alert as to the things going on around me. I have spent a lot of my summer inside because of this.”* Second, a very large number of participants mentioned being scared for the children living in Clarke Square, their safety and the consequences that the state of the neighborhood can have on their development: *“I am mostly concerned about the safety of the children at school. Greenfield Avenue seems to be a hub for the sex trade. I do pick up needles on our playground. Sometimes our children find them first”; “Speeding is what bothers me the most. There are a lot of little kids walking to school alone. I’m afraid they will get hit.”* One participant mentioned not only being scared but being *“angry and frustrated”* that the life of the children of the neighborhood could be dictated by the crime rate: *“The prostitution and drug use is one thing; but, it makes me angry and frustrated to see the children not be able to enjoy their childhood because of the social ills that plague this area of Milwaukee.”*

**Round Two Question:** *“This is a two-part question. What is one thing that you think should start, stop or continue to increase the quality of life in the neighborhood? What is one thing that you can do to contribute to that goal?”*

*“We need confidence in the police. If the police respond right away to a call then that builds confidence, and if they don’t respond, that destroys it. I also want to help the police. If they need help with something, I want them to tell me what they need and I will help. I have lived in the neighborhood for 17 years, and I want to stay, but I also want things to improve.”*

*“I think it is important to create block groups, to take care of one’s neighbors, and to work together to know what happens in the block, and to participate in the neighborhood cleanups. I think that all these activities would help to see our neighborhood as something different than a dump.”*

## **2.1 Police and Resident Relations**

### Start Collaborating with the police

A great number of participants shared wanting to either start or continue (depending on the participant) to develop a strong partnership between police and resident to solve the issues present in Clarke Square. This call was present in the answers of both residents and police officers participating in the dialogue. Regarding residents’ answers, participants strongly exposed their will to support the work of the police in any capacity: *“If the police put out a call for help or if they had a task for me to do in order to impact crime in the neighborhood I WOULD DO IT. Absolutely! But we need the police to intervene in situations. If they don’t, how can we have confidence in them as partners?”* A few participants underlined the importance of having the “courage” to call the police when witness of a crime: *“Something that is very important is to take action when we see an incident. We sometimes do not have the courage to call the police.”* The immigration status of some residents was identified as an obstacle for some residents to collaborate due to fear of negative repercussions on their lives: *“Many of the people are undocumented and fear what will happen if they do say something.”*

When it comes to the perception of police interventions, several police officer participants encouraged residents to actively cooperate with the police: *“When a crime happens, please let us [the police] know. Sometimes we know about a shot from the ‘shot spotters’ [devices installed in the street to detect gun shots]. Please do not be afraid to get involved.”* Some participants underlined the fact that without active collaboration from the residents, police officers cannot perform to the best of their capacities: *“People have a lot to say about the police, I need you to know that we are only human beings. People have lots to say about crime but in the end, things happen and they don’t call the police. We have to work together on this! We need people to get together and work with the police.”* Events between police and youth were encouraged to favor a strong partnership between resident and police officers in Clarke Square.

Participants mentioned facing different difficulties and challenges when attempting to report crimes and improving the situation. Some participants expressed feeling unsure about whether the police knows what to do to improve certain situations: *“It seems like the police know what’s going on but don’t know what to do about it.”* Some participants stressed the needs for specific areas to be under police control, such as the alley behind 21<sup>st</sup>: *“I would like to ask the police to check the alley behind 21st because there are cars*

*parked that block the alley. There are also condoms in the alley.”* A police officer participant’s comment can shine light to the root of such feelings amongst residents and the reasons why arrests are not always taking place: *“I am aware of this activity but we need to see certain elements to make an arrest.”*

Exchanges of information with the police was reported as challenging at times by some participants. First, some mentioned fearing potential repercussions for calling the police on illegal activities, even more so when the police is struggling to proceed to an arrest:

*“One morning I saw them [neighbors] out at 5 am loading up a truck [with drugs] and I reported to the police that they appeared to be suspicious. The officer stayed on the scene less than 5 minutes and questioned them and did not look in the containers [no warrant] and after the officers left they were “high fiving” each other, it was clear that their deception worked. That is what is frustrating that once you call the police and they are unable to address what is obvious. My son told me that I cannot call any longer because he fears that I will be identified as the source and I would be retaliated against.”*

Second, a few participants highlighted the problems they had faced in the past waiting on the line to be connected with an operator and report a crime: *“You can’t believe how much time I spend on hold with the operator when I call the police.”*

Despite these difficulties, participants were determined to work together to improve the living conditions in Clarke Square and increase the sense of community in the neighborhood, for *“[i]t’s my neighborhood and I’m not going to go away. I’m there to help.”* Several participants mentioned being determined to help improve the situation and cooperate with the police, as one participant explains:

*“Don’t know where to start! I think I might be on the busiest block, I witnessed a prostitute get raped. Witnessed cars get robbed, one of my cousin’s was robbed at gunpoint. I have a camera system around my house and get to see everything, all of the madness. I take a stand my neighbors know I call the police, they have tried to hit me with their cars, etc.”*

Participants called for more sustainable solutions that would truly change the neighborhood as well as provide help and support to the individuals who got caught in the circle of criminal activities: *“They can’t just continue to arrest prostitutes as a solution, we all know this is a deeper human trafficking issue. I many times struggle with feeling ineffective because I want to do something more and really help this community.”*; *“It breaks my heart that we can’t do more [for prostitutes], provide holistic treatment and response.”* However, some participants identified obstacles for such a change to take place such as a certain lack of commitment from some residents to truly get engaged and support the cause: *“People say they are interested, they show up to a meeting and then they don’t do anything else. People will not commit to things and follow through. It’s really hard to make change.”* When it comes to concrete solutions and ideas to improve the sense of community, a few participants suggested community days and community gatherings, workshops for residents to learn crafts out of the homes. In addition, other participants reported that *“motion-activated lights and cameras would help”* improve the conditions in the neighborhood.

### Hopelessness and Frustration

It is very clear that numerous participants are willing to assist individuals caught in the sex industry even if it can put them in difficult situations: *“Prostitutes were sleeping in our camper, on our porch. Then the cops think I’m a bad person because I give them money, food, a jacket. I’m trying to help them. The cops arrest them and then they are right back out.”* Yet, facing such a difficult issue to solve, many participants shared feeling uncertain and hopeless about how to make a difference and improve the situation in Clarke Square:

*"The problems aren't due to a lack of police presence... I see officers on bicycles. It's not illegal to stand on the corner in a short skirt. [...] I want to fix the problem and not sweep it under the rug. I don't know what the answer is but something needs to happen."* A considerable number of participants convey a feeling on hopelessness when it comes to find solutions: *"I don't know what the answer is."*; *"I feel that there is little that we [neighbors] can do."*; *"I don't know the solution."*

Besides feelings of hopelessness, feelings of frustration were present in the testimonies of several participants: *"My job is to educate parents regarding signs of pre-prostitution. I've had so much frustration because they're scared for their children and feel up against a wall."* Such feelings are very understandable when considering the difficulties faced in improving the situation of the neighborhood paired with feelings of hopelessness of participants: *"I feel frustrated and overwhelmed with the number of prostitutes in the neighborhood. It is really unbelievable. We call the cops all the time but nothing seems to come of it."* Feelings of frustrations are found as well in testimonies of police officers participants as well, as is seen in this comment: *"As an officer in the district for eight years I am frustrated personally with the turn that the district has taken since I have been here. Drug arrest is going on but I understand the frustration of others."*

Instances during which police is called but does not show up, or only 20 or 30 minutes after the call, have made it hard for participants not to feel frustrated in some instances. A community organizers participant yet explained that *"I have also heard from the community that the police never comes. I know that there is a call center, and sometimes officers are taking care of other calls. It is very important that each of you [residents] is involved because it is crucial to connect with neighbors to report anything suspicious. The neighborhood should continue working with faith."*

## **2.2 Intra-Community Relationship Building**

Besides developing police – resident relations, a great number of participants stressed the need to develop strong relationships between residents themselves in order to better support each other when in difficulty. One participant explained the reason behind wanting to develop neighborhood cohesion: *"There is nothing to be done by an individual alone. We have to organize and build a group. We can make this community a better place by working together."*

Participants identified a current lack of neighborhood connections which has been linked to a lack of incentive in protecting each others' property and interests: *"A lot of times we don't know who our neighbors are. If we know them we're less likely to "hurt" them by doing undesired things in their yard etc."* Starting to "unify with my neighbors" and "share information about what we're seeing with each other" during public meetings and block parties was suggested as great ways to deepened the community bond and reinforce mutual resident protection.

Participants suggested that the creation of neighborhood watch and/or Block groups could help Clarke Square considerably: *"I have a block group, and it has helped us a lot. For me, it is important to know the people that live around one in order to stop crime."* Other participants recommended organizing phone chains and email chains in order to report to each other suspicious behavior and increase overall safety: *"We should have a phone chain for the block. I can call my neighbors if something suspicious is happening. We can look out for each other."* One participant explained that such incentives could *"be helpful for neighbors to know each other and as a collective report the problems."*

A few participants underlined some of the challenges they faced while attempting to create a deeper and greater sense of community in the area. For instance, one participant stated that *"It is hard to*

get a response from people”, while another highlighted how important it was for residents to come to neighborhood meetings on a regular basis: “People need to show up. People don’t show up. If you show up to community meetings, you will make a connection with the police and with neighbors.” Time commitment has been identified as an obstacle by a lot of participants, for residents have to juggle with other obligations such as jobs, education...: “Where we struggle is the time commitment. [...] I want to remember that it takes time for change to happen.”

### **2.3 Ownership and Beautification of Neighborhood for Better Quality of Life**

To improve the quality of life in the neighborhood, a great number of participants brought light to the role of landlords and renters in the state of the neighborhood: “What we need is to hold landlords to account”. “Slumlords” were identified by many as the sources of innumerable problems, as explained by a participant: “They can buy dozens and hundreds of properties and not take care of them. When citations are issued we need people to make denunciations in court.” The long process of denunciation of disrespectful landlords has been described as challenging and lengthy, thus complicated to undergo to completion: “In my work in the neighborhood, I do collect evidence against landlords, but it is a long process. I need residents to agree to be witnesses.” The responsibility of the city is to be mentioned as well, for participants underlined some difficulties they faced when attempting to protect houses from being bought by “slumlords”: “A neighbor woman got sick and lost their house I tried to buy it but the city wouldn’t sell it to me the slumlord that ended up buying it now has 4 families with like 12 kids in this duplex! They are a nuisance and no one will do anything about it I am tired of the parties drugs, and violence.”

When it comes to actions that can be taken up by residents to improve the neighborhood, numerous participants declared wanting to invest in the beautification of the neighborhood following the “broken window theory” according to which “when people beautify the neighborhood there’s less chance of crime there”. Numerous participants who own their house underlined their motivation to “try to lead by example and keep our property well-tended”. Building beautiful gardens, adding extra garbage cans by their property “to encourage people to put their trash in it” are all steps taken by participants to improve life in Clarke Square. Several participants suggested starting “projects that lend themselves to neighborhood beautification, specifically around littering”, or bring “community art into the area” so that “we can do something beautiful. Brings attention, beautiful art. Kids see themselves in it as a part of it.”

Participants touched the topic of general cleanliness of the neighborhood as well, in particular in relation to damages caused by disrespectful dog owners and taggers: “Is there some way to deal with people’s dogs defecating where ever they want? Is there a law?”; “Years ago the graffiti was unbelievable. You’d clean it up and the next day it was back.” A police officer participant explained that “[w]e as police officers can give tickets to dog owners for letting their dogs make messes, but it’s difficult to do without getting the personal information of the person who reported the mess.” While several participants were willing to get more information on how to volunteer to clean up the neighborhood and contribute to its improvement - “I want to know more how to volunteer on cleaning up the neighborhood”, others raised the following point: “Do we need to clean up the neighborhood first before we attract new businesses? It’s a chicken and egg thing, which happens first? New businesses on the street will help.” As declared by one participant, “It goes deeper than cleaning up crime and cleaning up the neighborhood so businesses want to come in. They need to see visible signs of affluence and support.”

### **2.4 Need for Police Presence and Action**

As many participants expressed feeling that “there are no consequences for people’s bad behavior”, many shared wanted to see more action undertaken by the police when it comes to traffic issues, such as

*“giving a lot more tickets” and “hav[ing] more patrols before and after school hours because cars do not stop on the stop signs.” Increasing the number of beat cop in the street was suggested by some as well “to see them stationed so that they don’t move around. Then they can get to know people. I know it’s difficult with shortages, but it would go a long way to identify problem properties.” Many participants expressed wanting specifically more bike cops, as some participants feel that “[t]hey see things more easily than squad cops”, and “they go to yards and through the alleys.”*

An important number of participants called for greater police action to effectively reduce the sex trade: *“I think it would improve life in the neighborhood to reduce the sex trade”*. Focusing on the demand side of the problem, that is *“the buyers and the men who sell the prostitutes. It’s difficult...we write down the license plate numbers and a description of the vehicles, we call if we see incidents like women being beaten.”* Amongst other ideas, participants suggested *“diversion programs [that] would help them with drug addiction and a safe place to go”, “a training program in the neighborhood, so we can have conversations with the women”, and “[g]etting them counseling, letting them know: you’re not a bad person, you’re a child of God.”* A police officer participant mentioned *“partnering with the Benedict Center”* as a way for all to help prostitutes get out of the vicious circle that is the sex industry.

**Round Three Question:** *“This is a two-part question. What motivates you to contribute to the efforts to increase the quality of life in the neighborhood? What holds you back?”*

*“I want to be part of helping to get our neighborhood to become a ‘cool’ neighborhood... We bought now so we could afford it before it becomes ‘cool.’”*

### **3.1 Motivations**

#### Pride in / Love for the Neighborhood & Property Value

A great number of participants identified their pride in living in a nice neighborhood as a strong motivation to contribute to the efforts to increase the quality of life in Clarke Square: *“I am motivated that I have grown old here. Before, the drug situation was worse and I am motivated that the neighborhood is improving.”* For a few participants, it was only a love for the neighborhood but for the city of Milwaukee in general that was a motivation to participate in efforts to improve the quality of life: *“What motivates me is loving this city. Despite lifting residence requirements, I’ve chosen to remain in the city. Also the general appreciation I have for this area, the residents I’ve met.”*

Many participants associated their motivation to participate in efforts towards the improvement of Clarke Square to their ‘home owner’ status and the consequent financial interests they have in property value in the neighborhood: *“As far as motivation, I have a self-interest: my home value. I’d like to see the value maintained.”* Other participants mentioned that their motivation came from the need for the market to get back where it was when they bought a house: *“It motivates me because I live here. I want to be able to sell my home at a profit vs. a deficit, which it is now. I’ve gotten positive feedback about working in my yard, too.”*

#### Neighbors and People in the Community

Numerous participants explained that other residents of Clarke Square, neighbors trying to participate in the efforts undertaken to improve the neighborhood, are a motivation in itself for others to join the efforts: *“I’m motivated by you guys [looking at dialogue participants]. I want to make life better in this community.”* Several participants especially underlined the importance that active residents can have for the rest of the community as role models: *“What motivates me: People like the ones we have in the room now, that do have a sense of community and want us to do better.”*

Wanting to create a network and become a part of the community was identified by some as a motivation as well, as explained by one participant: *“Over the years, now we are the old guys, and it’s a very different atmosphere. It’s very diverse, but not much response when we reach out. I think they are Hmong, we would like to be part of a community. I feel like everyone is very isolated on the block.”*

Several participants mentioned being specifically motivated by participating to this Listening Circle, a place where members of the community gathered to talk about possibilities to improve the conditions in Clarke Square *“I am motivated by this type of programs to involve people and take care of the neighborhood for the children, who are the ones that are going to live here.”* Some called for the organization of more meetings in order to further discuss ways to get involved in efforts to improve the quality of life: *“I want to keep coming to meetings about improving the neighborhood.”*

#### Safety of Residents, Especially Children

Many participants shared that living in a safer neighborhood was a great motivation to get involved in efforts to improve the quality of life *“I want to live in a safe neighborhood and have a nice looking house.”*

A few participants linked the departure of the Pick'n Save in the area with a decrease in safety in the neighborhood: *"After the Pick n Save closed I feel bad about the place, I feel bad about safety."* Some participants called for more involvement from community members to increase safety in Clarke Square: *"I like the neighborhood. I think the more engaged people are the safer it will be."*

When speaking about safety, several participants focused on the need to have a family-oriented neighborhood that would be safe to bring up children: *"I would like my kids to be outside without me having to watch them. Have a Halloween party – block the streets off, and let the kids walk around, get treats, and get to know their neighbors."* Besides the will to have a safe place for children grow up, participants underlined wanting to create better conditions for the future residents of the neighborhood, that is their children: *"I am motivated by my kids and grandkids – improving things for them."*

### Faith

A few residents explained being motivated by their faith: *"I want to continue, I believe religion and faith has a huge part here. The city is asking the churches to come and help. I believe the Lord Jesus Christ is our answer. My wife and I believe he is real and he walks with us."*

## **3.2 Hold Backs**

### Sense of Fear and Hopelessness

When speaking about their hold backs, many participants shared feelings of fear regarding the situation of Clarke Square: *"In some ways we live our lives like kidnap victims. Stuck in our homes due to fear. I don't want that."* Besides, fear of retaliation when trying to cooperate with the police has been a challenge for several participants: *"What stops me is the fear that somebody is subject to retaliation because of one of my recommendations. I have not experienced any consequence on myself but I fear for others."* Fear was identified as a hold back by police officers participants as well for *"we're police but we get scared too. I worry about my parents getting older and worry about them being victims of crimes."*

Several participants mentioned feeling overwhelmed by the issues faced by Clarke Square, sharing a feeling of hopelessness in how to improve the quality of life in the area: *"I feel overwhelmed by the issue at hand I don't think we have enough resources to solve to problem, sometimes it seems hopeless and like it will only get worse."*

### Trust and Communication Challenges between Police and Residents

Several police officer participants mentioned being held back by communication issues and breakdowns, often due to the general fear of collaborating with the police: *"Road blocks in communication. Being afraid of threats in the community. More ways to get rid of that will be a big help. After a shooting people fear that if they can come forward their life will be threatened."* Other police officer participants stressed the importance of *"hav[ing] credibility by living in the neighborhood"* in order to know residents better and be better known from residents as well.

A few participants mentioned encountering difficulties when attempting to cooperate with the police and report a crime. One participants reported that *"I called that cops once because people were selling drugs out of a house on my block. They came to my house and asked me to come out with them and point out the house. I'm not doing that. It can't work like that. That prevents me from having confidence in the police."* Feeling confident that cooperating with police officers will not involved having to point at the criminal activities in front of the individuals involved is necessary for collaboration to increase

### Time and Resources Constraints

Some participants shared facing difficulties in getting involved in efforts to improve the community due to lack of time: *“What holds me back is that I wish I had more time. I want time with my kids and my wife, too.”* A few participants called for a ‘re-prioritization’ in order to ‘find the time’ to get involved and help improve the quality of life in Clarke Square: *“What holds me back is time. It needs to be the norm for us to put the time in and to be involved in the neighborhood and to model involvement”*.

A few participants mentioned that a lack of resources is holding them from getting more involved or doing more for the neighborhood: *“When I open up to the girls I don’t have the adequate resources that they need at my disposal, they need support a place to live a job, rehab etc.”*

### Lack of Resident Engagement & Disrespectful Neighbors

Some participants shared feeling held back on doing more for the neighborhood because of disrespectful neighbors and community members: *“I feel that I’ve held back on improving my yard and doing outdoor projects because people steal off of porches and there’s trash everywhere... people are disrespectful... why bother?”*. Other participants mentioned being “stopped” by community members who refuse to get engaged and help improve Clarke Square: *“I am stopped by those people who do not want to help, especially to improve the life of young people.”*

A few participants mentioned the existence of many rented apartments as a hold back: *“I want to get organized with neighbors, but I am held back by being surrounded by so many renters who don’t care. There is so much trash around and people don’t clean their sidewalks and then I need to do it.”* Rented spaces were linked to a lack of engagement by renters and lack of interest in investing in the neighborhood on a long-term basis.

**Connected Conversation - “What are themes you’ve heard or questions that you have for each other?”**

**Additional Police Information**

- People need to know that if you are not calling 911, you are not calling the police.
- The police non-emergency number is just calling a switchboard that doesn’t have direct contact with officers.
- Police officers, years ago, used to give away baseball cards. What happened to that?
- The Brewers used to sponsor that. It’s no longer in their budget. It’s hard to find things that we can give away.
- Badger Mutual used to help get cops the bikes.
- Every once in a while we [police officers] give kids a helmet.
- We do shop with a cop. In fact, we have a program coming up. [That’s a program wherein] A kid from a disadvantaged neighborhood is paired with a cop and they go Christmas shopping.
- For the police, all calls are equally important. We answer, however, based on a priority system. A shooting takes a higher priority than a parking infraction.
- From my task as a bicycle officer, I can say that I do not go from one place to the other in the neighborhood, but stick to a certain area.
- In my work with the neighborhood, I know that there are problems with dispatchers who take your calls. Did you know that there are only 13 dispatchers to take all of the calls in Milwaukee, and only 2 of them speak Spanish (and one of those has really broken Spanish)? They have a really hard job. It pays well, but people don’t stay. They have like 6 screens to look at while they are talking to you. I would like to take people on a field trip to the dispatch office so that you could understand what the situation is there. Residents need to pressure politicians to spend more money on dispatch.
- Here are numbers you can call to reach the police about different problems.
- Here are numbers put out by Safe and Sound that you can call for help in different areas.
- Based on what you told, we can’t just go in and search. What can the police do to make you feel safe about calling? Especially with the current captain, she is open to things.
- My son yelled at me when I told him about the call with the fruit sellers. I didn’t know what to do.
- I know exactly what he’s going through, picking up condoms at the school. We want to help but how far can I go without crossing the line and being worried about getting shot? (for calling the cops).
- One of the things we [police officers] do is partner with the Department of Corrections doing neighborhood clean ups, encouraging residents to join us. We are happy to share that information with you. I am concerned about prostitution and heroin. I mentioned partnering with the Benedict Center and looking at ways we can “treat” prostitution and addiction. We are looking at ways outside of a simple arrest. Prostitution is the end result of other things – homelessness and drugs. When I came to this district and saw the breadth of prostitution, I was shocked by the sheer number. And the needles, that’s a public health issue, not just for the children. I don’t know if we will ever solve the drug issue but maybe we can mitigate it. The other thing I’m hearing is a general lack of knowledge around how to get involved (as residents). I can do a better job promoting those opportunities for us to truly partner with residents.

- The prostitutes walk with the cars and I'm like, "Man, you've got balls" and the cops may give a ticket, and they're gone for a few hours, and then they're back (the prostitutes). (Looking at others in the group): You get to go home, but we live here. I do call the cops, but I'm scared of what will happen.
- I would be willing also to pay higher taxes for a better police presence because we need the police. Only so many bucks can be allocated in the budget for this.
- As an officer, I believe we could use more police because the wait time is too long for responses. We also need fewer calls for crisis situations that are really for trained social workers and teachers. That is not law enforcement. I feel there's a need for training in self respect amongst the youth and community. I'd like to be able to serve where I am really needed.

### **Additional Comments on Safety Issues**

- No one mentioned these stolen cars things. I think people think those are north side issues. No one mentioned gangs.
- When I first moved here in the 80s and 90s there were gang problems.
- I'm still hearing gun shots in the parking lot on 19<sup>th</sup> and Scott.
- We need to be careful in the neighborhood about allowing other residents to throw garbage in our containers because somebody threw stolen tools in mine. We should not allow it because we do not know what people are throwing away.
- I am wondering what to do about all of the syringes lying around from the drug users and prostitutes
- In July, 20 shots were fired into our house. Thank God no one was hurt, but there was thousands of dollars of damage done. We called the police, but they didn't come because we were the only ones who called. Since it was July and there were fire crackers around, they didn't respond because none of our other neighbors called. Finally they responded and went to the wrong house because a drug dealer /gang member neighbor steered them the wrong way. I think landlords should be fined for crime that's habitually going on at their properties because they are always renting to gang members.
- The group shared some ideas for generating safety, like having decoy cameras on their houses.
- Fear and Trepidation
- Increased security [cameras and safety lights]

### **Community Connection**

- I would like to give out these things to you all at this point [officer hands out pages that give numbers to police and other city services. He explains the numbers and what they are for and when one should call them]
- Common theme = working together
- Common theme = wanting to be more connected, wanting to do something for improvement... a desire for action is there
- I'm wondering if we can get contact information from other participants in this group/tonight's event to better connect after tonight.
- I want to share a resource with everyone since there were lots of comments about time being a barrier to getting/staying involved. The resource is "Milwaukee Time Bank" group which is a

network of ~10,000 people who are willing to share their time and talents, banking time “earned” that they can then use with other people in the group to get help with other things.

- We could bring someone in to guide us with a class.
- We could have something during the summer, with art teachers from the school...they'll appreciate it.
- Can I talk to my alderman?
- I feel the top leadership should be more involved i.e. congressmen, assemblymen, representatives and more. I feel they are involved in too much other stuff that is less needed than regaining control of our neighborhoods and city.
- Every single day my family owns three houses on the block I live on I am the person on the block people talk to when things happen. We have just started to use the next door app on our phones.
- Some neighbors more than others some I just have a “hello/good bye” relationship others I may actually know their parents.
- Sadly on my block I am scared of my neighbors I don't really talk to anybody.
- My neighbors are nice but there are language barriers that keep us from making real relationships.
- Promoting Unity
- Community and political education
- Youth involvement
- I have two kids and every day I see kids in the neighborhood. That's my motivation.
- My son rides his bike around this neighborhood and I want him to be safe.
- I would like my kids to be outside without me having to watch them. Have a Halloween party – block the streets off, and let the kids walk around, get treats, and get to know their neighbors.
- What motivates me is my family. My father still lives here and was on the police force. I want what's best for my 1-year old.
- What motivates me is that I own a home here and our kids are here. I love that when we go to the park we see kids playing with each other even when they can't speak to each other in the same language. Will there be a time when our kids get older and will want to walk to their friends' homes at night... right now I wouldn't be comfortable with that.
- Kids at my school motivate me. I participate in activities with the kids – open gym – so they have a relationship with me. I'm taking kids on tours to colleges and universities to show them that they have options, especially if their parents are high school educated.
- I was brought up to serve and do for others. Do something for someone else every day. My purpose is to help the kids.
- I am motivated to find the resources to do the things that you guys want to do in the community, I want to encourage a family-oriented atmosphere.
- I am motivated by the well-being of my children. I am motivated to have the community involved and to have my sons have a healthy life.
- I am motivated by my family. I feel encouraged because there are many leaders that are helping us. Lee is helping us so much. However, there is still little people that want to participate. I want people to understand that when I ask for anything, it is not for me, it is for the community.

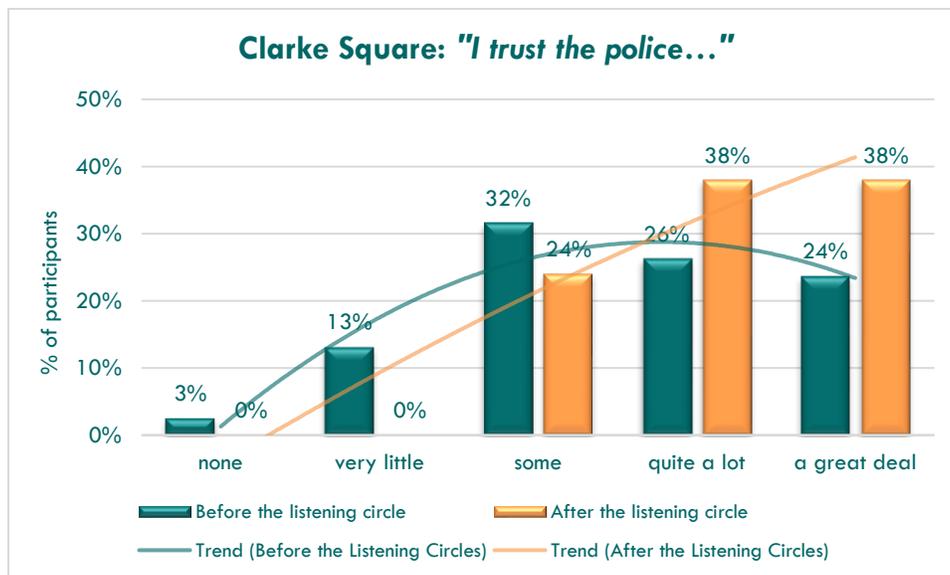
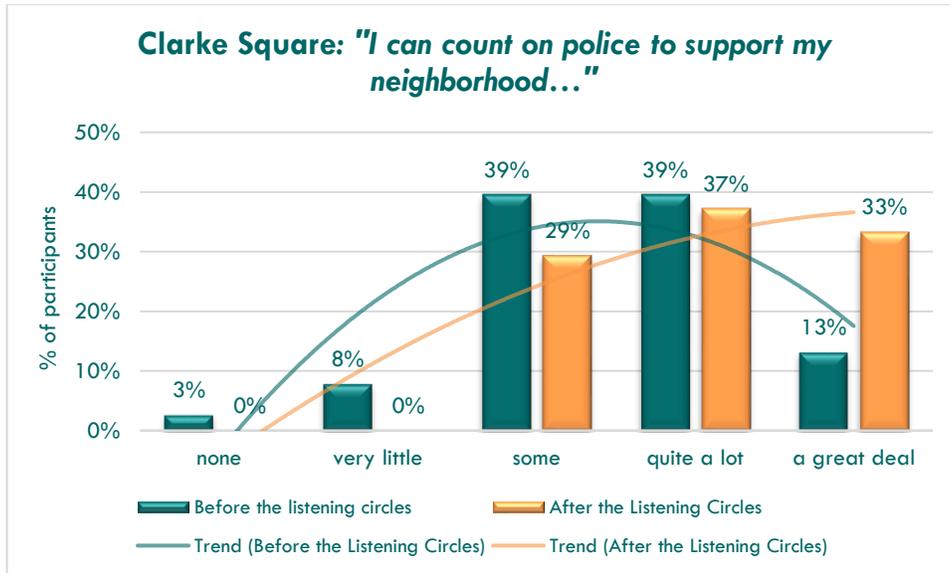
- What motivates me is that my kids and my grandkids are here in this place.
- I am motivated to change that because I want my kids to keep on living here.
- I am motivated by my kids and grandkids – improving things for them.
- I am motivated by my kids and wanting them and other kids to be safe. A 6 year old was killed by a car in front of my house. I don't want that kind of horrible thing to happen to anyone else.
- 80% of the students live near our two churches/schools. That's a great motivator for me.
- What motivates me is my family. I don't want anything to happen to them.
- As a new father, I see what I want for my family and I find myself wanting more for everybody.
- I am concerned because my little sister is five years old; sadly she comes into the time where everything is different. I grew up in a time when I and my cousins played outside. I personally don't want my little sister to see this prostitution, racing and drugs.
- What motivates me: The pain I see in the face of those young girls that are being trafficked, the prospect of showing my sons something different and better.
- What motivates me: Ecclesiastes 9 verse 10 says : Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom. What are people doing on their deathbeds? Not wishing for more money, they are wishing they had more quality time with loved ones, what motivates me is the opportunity to spend time with family.

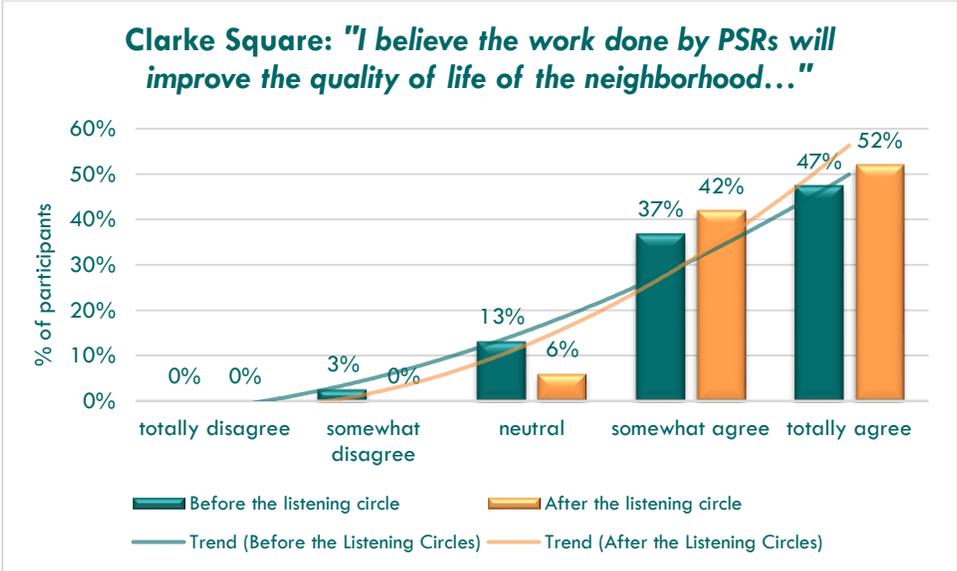
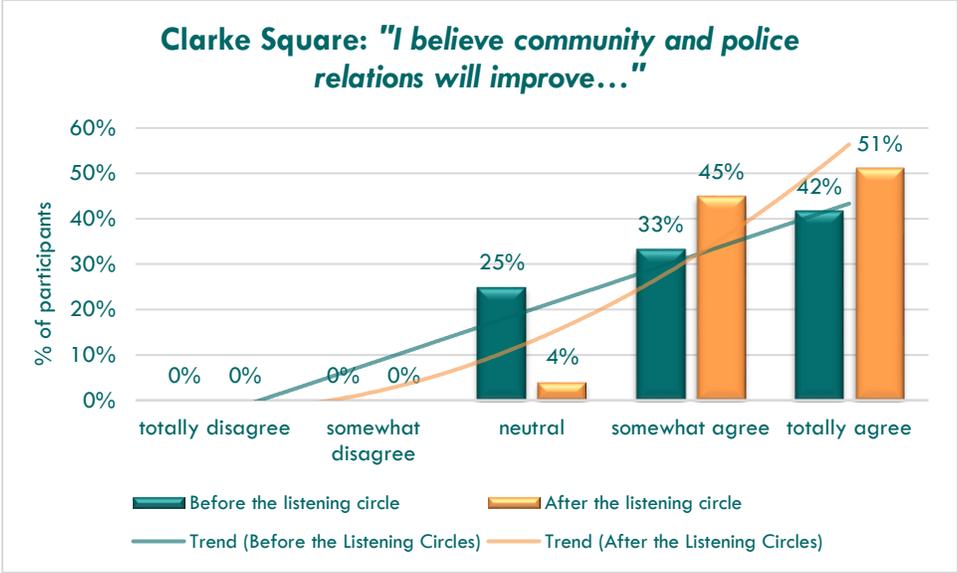
## Parting Words

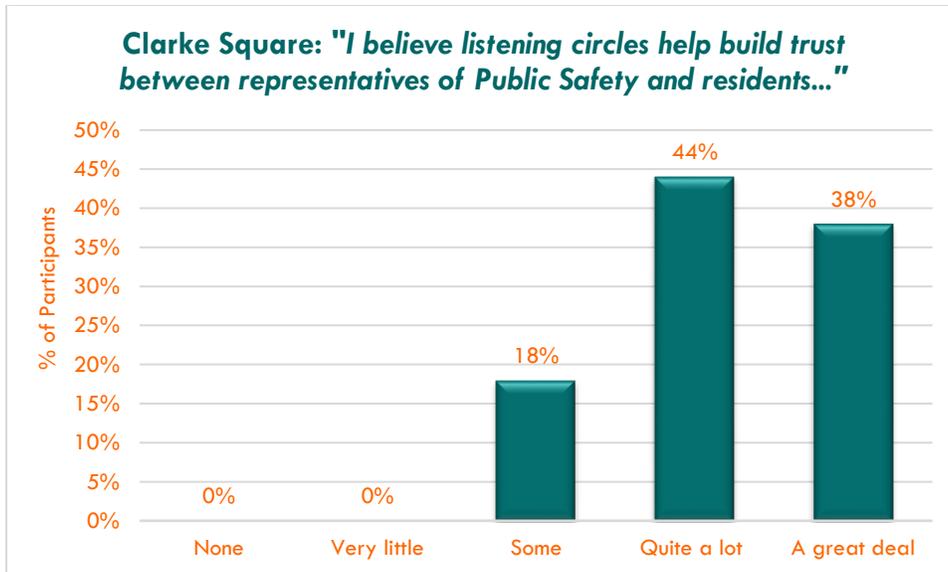
- Conviviality
- Connecting
- Useful
- Exhilarating
- Thank you. We care about our neighborhood
- Thanks to everyone for coming
- Thanks for being motivated to come out tonight
- Thanks for sharing your stories.
- Thanks to the facilitators
- I'm very scared. I hope you can help. I feel better being here. Thanks
- I will help you. I will come to your house and take you out if I have time. I can't promise but I will try.
- Thank you for your offer. Thanks to the facilitators. This worked much better because of you all. I really appreciate it, let's give them a round of applause.
- WE are not alone. Let's continue to work together.
- We found a new neighbor!
- I enjoyed meeting folks tonight.
- I have a little dog and enjoy taking him to Square Park on 23<sup>rd</sup> and Mineral. Mamas were there with their children. It was wonderful! Cops came within moments to get someone down from the [roof] top of a building who shouldn't have been up there.
- It would be nice to have something in the old Pick n Save locale that would be an asset and that would bring us jobs.
- This is great. I don't get tired of coming to these sorts of meetings. I like meeting nice people.
- I enjoyed it.
- I appreciated the opportunity on both personal and professional levels to participate tonight. We can't always control things at the national level but this feels local and doable.
- It is good to see that so many people came together to move forward, be safe. It is uplifting to be with like-minded people.
- Thank you for inviting law enforcement. We are not always seen as people.
- I agree. I am glad to have met neighbors I didn't know.
- I want to thank everyone for their perspectives and experiences. I've been part of a variety of similar experiences... it's nice to get together.
- It is my first in a dialogue and I find to share very interesting. I am happy to have a voice.
- I want to know what happens in the community and to know if there are changes.
- I appreciate [the Zeidler Center] to come to lead this dialogue. I want that the community keeps on being supported.
- It is important to be involved.
- Thank you for coming. Please, do not be discouraged and keep on calling the police.
- I want to thank everybody for being here. I want you guys to know that there are beautiful things in the neighborhood. I want to remind you to go to the crime and safety meetings.
- Thanks for this kind of events in the community.
- I want to thank the police for creating connections with the community.

- Thanks everybody for coming.
- Part of my work is to bring your voice to the district. Any idea, please, let me know it to carry it to the district. I will be honest with you.
- I am inspired to know that there are so many people involved that want to be part of the solution.
- Thank you to everyone for being here. I think things are going to get better.
- I would like to stay in communication with people in this group.
- This is a group effort. I want everybody to keep working together.
- It's good to be informed about the problems that others are having.
- Thanks to everyone for participating
- Supercalaphragalisticexpialadocious
- I feel so much better coming here and getting to know all of you because normally I am so isolated and afraid to leave my house, but you have changed my feeling and given me confidence. I feel trust in you (the police officer), you (the neighborhood worker), and you (the facilitators), and the other neighbors who are here. You have really changed my feeling.
- Thanks for helping my wife to gain confidence and trust you. It's difficult to gain her confidence. Thanks to you the facilitators for doing this type of dialogue. It gets good results. I have participated in other meetings like this before that were not as effective because they didn't use this format.
- Thanks to everyone for coming. (To the scared woman) I (as a police officer) will give you my number, and if you want to leave your house sometime and are scared, and I am not busy, I will come and escort you outside.
- Thanks to everyone for coming.
- I'm happy I get to talk to the captain. Sometimes they (police) get feisty, and I just shut my mouth. Thank you, thank you for the opportunity.
- He said it all. Having a captain know our concerns, I appreciate that. I look forward to working with you.
- (PO) I am really humbled by that, so thank you. There's a much greater respect and appreciation for law enforcement from you in this district than the national narrative would have you believe. It's important for me to truly listen so I know the best way to respond to your concerns.
- We got all our points out.
- I like what they said.
- I'm appreciative that we have citizens like you living in this neighborhood. You keep our students safe. Thank you.
- I wish there was no need to be afraid.
- It has to be one step at a time.
- It's hard to arrest your way out of prostitution because they will be right back out there. Most are being controlled by pimps and drug addiction which makes them victims themselves. A lot of their customers are the people in the neighborhood. So it's the neighborhood doing it to them.

## Feedback Forms







What was most satisfying or valuable about this experience? Did you learn anything about the police today?

- Building of community / relationships police are people too.
- Connections + seeing the same concerns among neighbors, police included.
- Getting to see new people + hearing.
- Good to hear others in the 'hood feel things have improved from the "old days".
- Having dialogue. Nothing that i already knew.
- Hearing from others.
- Hearing the same frustration, sharing what we want.
- How open and willing to listen.
- How to respond better.
- I felt comfortable, I saw that residence & PSRs also felt comfortable to share.
- I understand better some of the things the police have to deal with.
- Listening.
- Listening to other's advice and experience.
- Meeting neighbors.
- Meeting the people in my circle.
- Met nice neighbors.
- More areas police active in.
- No officer in this group but city rep.
- Seeing different perspectives. Hope for the community.
- Share same thoughts + concerns.
- That they are helpful.
- That they want to communicate with the residents.
- The discussion groups.
- The members of the group showed faith in the process no.

- The open conversation.
- The same.
- Totally talking with the police and not getting arrested cause of what you said.
- We had the same problems and they can be dealt with now yes the struggle they had.
- Yes. I was very refreshed of them trying to work on things for the better.
- You can trust a police.
- Ayudo mucho.
- El numero de personas que participaron.
- Hablar con otros residentes, escuchar los comentarios y preocupaciones.
- Informarme y que estan disponibles muchas formas de ayuda.
- La confianza que se debe tener.
- La discusion, la corecion entre vecinos.
- Muy buena experiencia y aprendi mucho.
- Poder escuchamos unos a los otros sin interrumpimos.
- Que lo puedan ayudar.
- Que no debo perderle la confianza a los RSPs.
- Que podemos contar con apoyo de ellos.
- Que podemos contar mas en la policia.
- Si aprendi mucho de esta practica.
- Toda la informacion y preguntas.

What questions or concerns are you leaving with?
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- Continue the conversation.
- Does clarke square have a monthly meeting group?
- Feeling positive that there is some movement toward safety.
- Follow up.
- How to keep the momentum.
- How to keep the neighbor hood clean.
- Identified issues remain unresolved but "" hope.
- None.
- None.
- None.
- Not any.
- Nothing. What question are you guys going to ask next.
- Phone number of members.
- Prostitution.
- What affects will happenend after this meeting.
- Where are the politicians?
- Will we do it again?
- Ninguna.

- Ninguna.
- No.
- No todo quedó claro.
- Todo está muy bien.

What's the most important suggestion you have for future dialogues, or steps going forward?
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- Call city, communication, feels good to talk.
- Can we have more things like this.
- Communication is key.
- Do employ a multi-faceted approach to dealing with sex trade.
- Get to know your neighbors.
- Help clean the neighbor.
- Helping each other.
- How to let go and not hold back without moving to just.
- How we can move forward on getting this tol on 17th. To make it an art tol.
- Involvement of community & psr's.
- Keep communication lines open.
- Keep doing it. If i lived in this neighborhood the experience i know would have made me feel safer.
- Keep the groups small.
- Let us ask questions or make comments as we go along, not just at the end.
- Meet regularly (3-4x/yr).
- More.
- N/A
- N/A
- Neighbors being engaged.
- Networking.
- None.
- Not sure, but keep the momentum going!
- Share our faith.
- Starting with us as individuals.
- Sturt.
- Where are the politicians? How about having ex-convicts who have changed their lives and how that happened. What can the community do?

- Cuando va a haber otra.
- Continuar la conversación.
- Invitar mas gente.
- Mas juntas sobre las comunidades.
- Mas seguridad.
- Nada.
- No.
- Que cuiden de los niños.
- Que se hagan mas seguido.
- Seguir adelante con el programa.
- Seguir con las juntas de seguridad.
- Vigilancia con drogas y carros no respetando la leyes.

## Participants' Answers

**Round One Question:** *“Residents have brought to our attention several challenges faced by the neighborhood, including drugs, speeding and sex trade (prostitution). Talk about a personal experience when your life has been affected by these challenges. If possible, please talk about an experience or experiences in the past 30 days.”*

### 1.1 Incidents involving prostitution

- I work in an agency that takes calls from residents who wish to report crime and incidents of violence in the neighborhood. I recently received a call from a woman who was incensed that she witnessed a nude woman being beaten on the front lawn of a known drug and house of prostitution. She also conveyed in our conversation additional information about drug paraphernalia on the streets in the area of the house in question. She later called back to indicate that law enforcement never showed up.
- Prostitutes just get into my car when we are stopped at a stop sign or trying to park. It happened twice this week.
- In the last 2 weeks I have had a couple of incidents with prostitutes trying to get in my car which have made me very uncomfortable. Some of them have even occurred when I'm with my family.
- When I leave my car in front of the house, prostitutes will sit on my car door. I yell at them to get off the car and they ignore me. Or as soon as I leave they just come back.
- This morning I took a report from a woman in the neighborhood. She said that her daughters were outside in front of a business waiting for the school bus. A prostitute started screaming at her kids. She was threatening them and saying that this was “her corner” and that they could not stand here. The woman's daughters explained that they were students waiting for the school bus. The prostitute did not believe them and continued to harass the girls. It is difficult to hear these stories. We can arrest the prostitutes but they will be back on the street in just a few hours. It is hard because we also recognize that they are victims as well in the situation.
- Tell me about these prostitutes? What do they look like? Are they dressed sleazy?
- They usually have company – a guy with them.
- We have a big problem with prostitution because there are women almost naked in the street when I take my son to school. Police passes by but does not do anything. There are many children walking, and these women even suggest things to the kids.
- Sometimes the leaders of the prostitutes have approached me and I am scared for those people who are defenseless.
- For my wife and me, we find prostitution disturbing to see in the neighborhood. I do a lot of gardening so I am out in my yard. One day I took the trash out to the alley and a car was parked and the people were having sex.
- 3 weeks ago, I saw on my block three prostitutes left a car that a man was driving to walk the neighborhood and look for clients. There are just certain neighborhoods in the city where people don't have to worry about that. Here we get so much of the problem gangs, drugs, prostitutes.
- My concern is these young girls out here working the block. Their “Guys” are pulling up parking their cars and telling them to go and get some money. One of my friends said many of them are on ex. The

pimps of these girls are abusive and beat on them. You can hear it. It's hard to explain what is going on to my young children.

- I have lived in the neighborhood a long time and I have found condoms, dildos etc. We have to clean up. We are the voice of the parents. The drug houses are used for prostitution and the kids at school can see what's going on. I had police come to teach parents signs of these activities and I also find materials and resources for domestic violence.
- As far as prostitution, I see condoms in the alley and I think that's terrible.
- I've worked at the Lutheran School since July. I am from this neighborhood... I left and then came back. I approach the ladies and ask them to move away from the school. I have found condoms by the school and recently a kid picked up a needle. I've called the police and they always call back and come... I'm grateful. The ladies use a house by the school...the house was boarded up but now they've taken the boards off. We pray for them.
- I was born and raised in the neighborhood and I do help prostitutes sometimes. They aren't bad.
- For me, I see it [drugs] fueling the sex trade. I see people who are addicted and hopeless, they turn to prostitution for survival. I live south of here. I have seen the number of prostitutes increase on Greenfield Avenue and I find it to be annoying and very disturbing.
- All night there are cars lined up looking for prostitutes I can see them picking them up outside my 2<sup>nd</sup> floor window
- I see drugs in the neighborhood... cars pulling up and quick exchanges before driving off. When I call the police they're gone.... the people and cars change so I can't identify who the people buying and selling drugs are. I come home at night and see sex workers. I see police presence but it seems that the people causing problems know the patrols and can avoid the police. The transactions are quick... too quick for the police to be able to act.
- Also, I see prostitutes on the street corner every night at 10 or 11 p.m. A prostitute even got in my car once and I had to tell her to get out.

## **1.2 Speeding & Disregard of Traffic Laws**

- Speeding is also a big problem. People drive at 50 mph down residential streets.
- In the entire south side of Milwaukee there is no respect for traffic laws. People speed and ignore stop signs.
- For a time, about 7 or 8 years ago, things were better around here. Not long ago, my car was hit by another driver right on my street. I wrote down the plates and called to police. The report came back and said the car was registered to someone in Oconomowoc but nothing was ever done. Nobody stops at the stop sign here on the corner [points to a corner presumably near the school] they drive right through it at high speed. We need more cops giving out a lot more tickets. If more tickets are given out I think we can make things safer.
- I've noticed lately the speeding has increased around my area.
- I'm more worried about the speeding around here. The just put up stop signs. I'm concerned about the vacant house next door to me.
- I've never seen drugs or prostitution. The speeding definitely. Someone's gonna get killed, especially by these motorcycles.
- I have lived in this neighborhood for a long time – 17 years. For a while the neighborhood was clean and quiet and now there are a lot of problems again. There are too many speeding cars. A car even hit me and drove away. A mailperson witnessed the incident and got the license plate, but when the police investigated, it was a stolen car and nothing came of it. If the police need to write tickets to get

quotas of some kind, they could just sit at one corner and get everything they need in a day. Also, the police are not giving out tickets to cars that are parked illegally anymore.

- A car was flipped and totaled. The neighbor said the accident happened due to speeding.
- I have called about having a speed bump slow that down. You have to have a certain number of people sign [a petition/agreement paperwork], and residents have to pay, and I think that's terrible.
- In the issue of speeding I think it's dangerous for the kids. I worry about kids seeing drivers acting disrespectfully (giving the finger) when I try to get the drivers to slow down.
- (Police Officer) I've been assigned to the South Side. I was hit in my squad car, by someone running a red light. I wasn't hurt, luckily. I see reckless autos all the time, and fatal accidents in the neighborhood. We have an inability to enforce violations. It's concerning and tragic and unnecessary.
- We need quieting in the neighborhood, speed bumps have been placed but I thought we would have two. I wish our bumps were like Clarke Square.
- High speed (of cars) is also a big problem on my block.

### **1.3 Drug deals and Needles in Clarke Square**

- It's difficult to let my lady walk the kids to school because it feels unsafe. We see lots of open drug sales. People block the street with their cars when they are buying drugs or talking to people. If you honk or ask them to move they get mad.
- I've seen drugs and syringes lying in the street.
- I think they're selling drugs out of the cars. They park. Their headlights are on. Someone approaches. They walk away with what looks like a pack of cigarettes. I think they put the drugs into an emptied cigarette package. And then speeding – most of the time they don't stop at the stop sign.
- I've found condoms and needles in my yard. A guy tried to pick me up in front of my house.
- As far as drugs, I don't know if those are drugs, but we hear people yelling. The police shut the house down where that yelling was occurring.
- What really bothers me is the needles. The drug use, the needle use. I pick them up and put them in the box.
- Regarding drugs, the heroin and fentanyl epidemic is crazy. I haven't seen a drug epidemic like I've seen with this heroin epidemic. District 2 is leading the city and county in heroin overdose deaths.
- People are selling drugs in broad daylight.

### **1.4 Public Health & Safety Issues**

- During the summer in my neighborhood the streetlights were out for many weeks. Some neighbors tried to put bright lights where the alley meets the street and the lights were just stolen.
- The neighbors have dogs. They bring their dogs for a walk and the dogs just defecate in front of my house and the neighbors don't care. They just walk away.
- I'm upset about so much dog poop on the sidewalk and people who let their dogs just do their business in front of my house and don't clean it up.
- Graffiti. We have a light pole out front. These guys come and tag it. I just bought some [chemical to remove] and just removed it myself.
- Also there were some street lights out for a couple of weeks this summer and that was bad for safety.
- One girl was digging through the garbage, which is a health issue. It's going to bring rodents into your house.
- I wish it [the neighborhood] was a little bit cleaner than it is.

- Greenfield Avenue has gotten worse, speeding, not keeping block clean, not putting trash where it should go but rather the streets.
- I believe there's a dog poop problem.

### **1.5 Crime, Violence and Fear of Residents**

- I work with a community based organization that works within the community to address crime and violence in the community. I have been saddened by the negative incidents occurring in the neighborhood over the past 20 years.
- (*police officer*) There's a big challenge finding people who are breaking the law at the time they're doing it. I'm personally responsible for an area where I hear complaints. I don't think anybody's not affected by the crimes. I was raised here and have been affected by it too. I had an experience with a recent situation where the person breaking the law was a childhood friend, which made the situation hard.
- I had everything in my yard stolen and that made me feel really bad.
- When I first moved to the south side, like 3 years ago, I was waiting for the bus on National Avenue before work and I got robbed at gunpoint. I still went to work but it bothered me. Then I started getting rides.
- These slumlords are the worst too, we have a few problem neighbors that are causing all the problems.
- It was a long time ago; but I observed a man breaking into a car on my block, I called the police and reported the incident and shortly after that my car was broken into and my brand new golf clubs [were stolen].
- About two weeks ago, several cars got their windows broken. My daughter's car was one of them. These events occur recurrently. These crimes affect my daughter because it is the car that she uses to take her son to school.
- I am affected by all three topics. I live above a shop and I see drivers speeding on a regular basis, from the 27th to 16th. I am also worried because I got my truck stolen and the criminals were kids of just 13 and 12.
- I left my purse in the car for 15 minutes one time and came back and somebody had went in and robbed me!
- Over the past fifteen years I have lived in this neighborhood and I enjoy gardening. I have in the past couple of years spent less time doing so because I am afraid to do so. When I am outside I always have to be alert as to the things going on around me. I have spent a lot of my summer inside because of this.
- I don't have a lot to report. I live in fear I never leave the house. Even if I have to do yard work or something outside, I wait until my family members come home.
- I am so afraid to leave my house because of how dangerous the neighborhood is that I only leave the house when I'm accompanied by family members. I don't even want to go out to clean my patio when I'm alone at home. I don't feel safe. I'm just shut up in my house because I'm terrified.
- I am uncomfortable when my wife walks the kids to school. The prostitutes are out early. Drug deals are out in the open. We try not to see what's going on out of fear.
- Public safety is a big issue, I just don't feel safe around here anymore when I rake my yard, I am raking condoms and needles!
- I am mostly concerned about the safety of the children at school. Greenfield Avenue seems to be a hub for the sex trade. I've seen prostitutes at different times of the day, morning, at the end of the school day. I go out at 3:15 pm to observe, to "mark our territory". There was a shooting the other night and

a thing like that would scare our parents. I do pick up needles on our playground. Sometimes our children find them first. 3:15 – 3:45 pm is a very busy time at our school. Almost 200 children are leaving school. I have a very good crossing guard who is a grandma, but the speeding is a concern for our children. We are trying to be very careful.

- Speeding is what bothers me the most. There are a lot of little kids walking to school alone. I'm afraid they will get hit.
  - Speed is my concern. I see young kids 7 or 8 walking to school alone and they are in danger crossing the street.
  - From my personal experience, when I was the manager of the Boys and Girls club, there was a shooting when the children were playing soccer outside. It was a trauma for the children. We found needles and had speeding on a regular basis; all that in daylight.
  - The prostitution and drug use is one thing; but, it makes me angry and frustrated to see the children not be able to enjoy their childhood because of the social ills that plague this area of Milwaukee.
  - I see them from 27<sup>th</sup> street east to 16<sup>th</sup> street on Scott and they have no regard for the stop signs. They don't stop until someone gets hurt. I am concerned for the children.
  - During the summer speeding is a huge problem and very dangerous. My grandchildren are outside playing during the day and it's not safe.
  - The problems in my block are speeding, people selling drugs, and noise during quiet hours. I think that we need to be more strict with people that rent apartments. My main concern is that my daughters are afraid. For example, last week, there were a man and a woman fighting in the street.
  - I have seen lots of cars going too fast in the neighborhood and I'm worried about the safety of my grandchildren.
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**Round Two Question:** *“This is a two-part question. What is one thing that you think should start, stop or continue to increase the quality of life in the neighborhood? What is one thing that you can do to contribute to that goal?”*

## 2.1 Police and Resident Relations

### Start Collaborating with the police

- I would like to ask the police to check the alley behind 21st because there are cars parked that block the alley. There are also condoms in the alley.
- I work at Direct TV. And I think it's a lack of police presence but can a person stand on a corner in a short skirt? With kids around is that appropriate? I see drug activity quite often.
- I see cars pulling up then there's a quick exchange. I work during the day but I see this after dark. It seems like the police know what's going on but don't know what to do about it.
- (Officer) I am aware of this activity but we need to see certain elements to make an arrest. Two weeks ago I was on a drug call which was a person I know whose son is a crack addict.
- There is garage on the side of my fence, where the occupants of the house appear to be in business selling produce and doing construction, but; you can tell they are selling drugs out of the house. One morning I saw them out at 5 am loading up a truck and I reported to the police that they appeared to

be suspicious. The officer stayed on the scene less than 5 minutes and questioned them and did not look in the containers [no warrant] and after the officers left they were “high fiving” each other, it was clear that their deception worked. That is what is frustrating that once you call the police and they are unable to address what is obvious. My son told me that I cannot call any longer because he fears that I will be identified as the source and I would be retaliated against.

- You can't believe how much time I spend on hold with the operator when I call the police.
- On my block just this past Month we have had problems with drug selling and use, we have slumlords that rent to anybody and don't care about the poor conditions of their houses so the houses have safety issues. I have real health issues I have diabetes real bad but because of all the crime going on outside I can't even walk the neighborhood for exercise! I feel like a prisoner in my own home. There are prostitutes everywhere, we just got some new problem neighbors that are always fixing raggedy cars in front of the house and have the side walk blocked off! I am too sick to deal with all of this! And you can't call the police because if they even think it's you they will terrorize you!
- I believe there is a lack of community sense.
- We [our organization] try to organize people in the neighborhood to change things but it is very difficult. People say they are interested, they show up to a meeting and then they don't do anything else. People will not commit to things and follow through. It's really hard to make change.
- I've heard growing concerns from residents. I'm responsible to help put things in place so residents don't have these issues. Maybe if we had community days. Learn crafts out of the homes. Have community gatherings.
- People who want to see the hooker get stopped in his tracks because the community is in the streets would get a victory if we had community days where we take over the streets for the day. That would stop the speeding, too.
- Right now, I want to clean the leaves out of the sewers so the water can go down, that's a hazard. I want to support the street sweepers for more jobs. I want to help out and support it (prostitution), not support, but help.
- Don't know where to start! I think I might be on the busiest block, I witnessed a prostitute get raped. Witnessed cars get robbed, one of my cousin's was robbed at gunpoint. I have a camera system around my house and get to see everything, all of the madness. I have people that hang out in front of my house and on my stairs when I go to work, when I call the police, they just disburse and come right back later. I bought a dog for protection but I think that they may try to steal my dog. I take a stand my neighbors know I call the police, they have tried to hit me with their cars, etc. I bought laser pens that I point at prostitutes and their “Customers” from my window it makes them drive off there is so much going on I just don't know where to start because I want to be a part of the change over here! I can say on the positive note that we may have a new program coming soon that will offer alternatives to prostitutes the alderman just has to approve it.
- I work in this neighborhood and I struggle many times with what I see and hear. Just how common the drugs and the prostitution issues are. I was overwhelmed by sympathy for both sides. They can't just continue to arrest prostitutes as a solution, we all know this is a deeper human trafficking issue. I many times struggle with feeling ineffective because I want to do something more and really help this community.
- I also live on Greenfield and I see activity daily. I had one to pass out on my porch. I was in an accident and the people left the car and ran. I think this meeting is good for our neighborhood.

- I am from this neighborhood and I see ladies sitting on our school property and I have found condoms. I have called police who finally came. So, we got drug and sex house boarded up. Speeding around school bus is a problem also. I am not going to go away.
- It's my neighborhood and I'm not going to go away. I'm there to help.
- Maybe motion-activated lights and cameras would help. I'm here to try to help. I want to help find a solution.
- Where I live now, especially by bus stops, I'd be there at 5:30am, and they come asking for money and cigarettes. It's a bad situation but we need to give them resources for help, gathering them to meet in the morning for coffee.
- If the police put out a call for help or if they had a task for me to do in order to impact crime in the neighborhood I WOULD DO IT. Absolutely! But we need the police to intervene in situations. If they don't, how can we have confidence in them as partners?
- I have worked for many years as a police officer in this district. I have worked first and second shift. I have seen a lot of things. There are people starting block watch and block clubs. People have a lot to say about the police, I need you to know that we are only human beings. People have lots to say about crime but in the end, things happen and they don't call the police. We have to work together on this! We need people to get together and work with the police.
- I put all the phone numbers of neighbors and police and other services in my phone as well as the license plates of problem cars and I always call the police so that they can have the stats even if they can't catch people in the act.
- I back the badge.
- When a crime happens, please let us [the police] know. Sometimes we know about a shot from the 'shot spotters' [devices installed in the street to detect gun shots]. Please do not be afraid to get involved. We [the police] sometimes have a question and it is to have, at least, a telephone number; do not call anonymously. If you manage to pick the color, the plate, or the model, that would be very helpful. Please, call.
- Something that is very important is to take action when we see an incident. We sometimes do not have the courage to call the police. My daughter has requested to have the rhino [a specialized surveillance police vehicle] and it has stopped the crime a lot.
- I would also like to have more events between police and young kids.
- We need confidence in the police. If the police respond right away to a call then that builds confidence, and if they don't respond, that destroys it. I also want to help the police. If they need help with something, I want them to tell me what they need and I will help. I have lived in the neighborhood for 17 years, and I want to stay, but I also want things to improve.
- I am so happy to see people here. I am a police officer and just switched from 3<sup>rd</sup> shift to first. I am so happy to be able to talk to people during the day and not just respond to calls in the night. Sometimes when residents complain to me about incidents and I ask them if they called the police, they say no. Residents need to call the police. I want to encourage neighbors to work together to improve things.

- I have been around for thirty years and I have been following up with the officers. The decline is because of so many reasons such as lack of communication, language barriers, getting lost in translation. Many of the people are undocumented and fear what will happen if they do say something
- Also it is important that we document what happens and when, time place make and model of car etc.

### Hopelessness and Frustration

- I have extensive experience facilitating groups for women who are making an attempt to leave the sex industry. I recently had a bright spot, a women who has a degree, 2 teenage children has made the commitment to leave “The Life” and in conversations with her recently I have learned she has employment-obtained housing- and got her children back from CPS. How cool is that!!!
- I’m the Executive Director at the Benedict Center and we’re looking to start a Sisters’ Program in this area. I’m here partly as a Public Safety Representative. In the past 30 days I have helped 3 women in the sex trade in another neighborhood to get off the street...in housing, emergency psychiatric treatment, AODA treatment, other services. We advocate for more services. It’s heartbreaking when we can’t help because services aren’t available.
- I am with the Benedict Center for Women and in the last thirty days we have helped three women on the North side find help with housing and treatment. One woman went into psychiatric treatment but the time ran out before she could find placement. It’s heart breaking when you cannot find help.
- Prostitutes were sleeping in our camper, on our porch. I walk to the gas station every day, and they’re there (prostitutes). Then the cops think I’m a bad person because I give them money, food, a jacket. I’m trying to help them. The cops arrest them and then they are right back out.
- It breaks my heart that we can’t do more [for prostitutes], provide holistic treatment and response.
- There used to be a woman’s shelter on my block, now that is gone.
- It’s tough for the police because the prostitutes are also victims and we’re trying to help them too. When we pick them up they just get quickly and get back out there. A lot of them need money to support their drug addiction.
- I work and live in the neighborhood. It’s a static neighborhood – we see the same people all the time. The problems aren’t due to a lack of police presence... I see officers on bicycles. It’s not illegal to stand on the corner in a short skirt. I have a visceral reaction because I’m trying to raise kids here. I want to fix the problem and not sweep it under the rug. I don’t know what the answer is but something needs to happen. I try to put myself in others’ shoes and want there to be resources for the people causing problems.
- I live on Greenfield where I have a view of what’s happening. In the last 30 days I’ve swept up a needle, found condoms in the alley behind my house and have heard speeding cars. I don’t have kids. I hear the speeding cars but don’t get outside fast enough to do anything.
- We’re pretty new to the neighborhood but have seen all of the things others have mentioned. We see prostitution every day and see them in and out of cars night and day...the same people. I don’t know what the answer is. In the past 30 days someone passed out on our front steps and we decided to let them sleep it off. Also someone did a U-Turn in front of our house and took off the front of my car and then the people took off so it was just me and the police left. I like this forum as a chance to meet our neighbors.

- In the last three weeks, I have found out that there is a landlord that is renting his/her [sex not determined] house, and he/she is not responsible for the property. I feel that there is little that we [neighbors] can do.
- I live on Greenfield. In the last thirty days I found syringes and condoms in the alley and in front of my house. I hear the speeders but by the time I look up they are gone. I don't know the solution.
- I've been a peer fellow at Longfellow School (900 students) for 20 years. This is my home for my whole life. We've had to replace the wood chips by the school with asphalt because of finding condoms and dildos... in the chops. We petitioned the Council for a 4-way stop and it was the voice of parents that made the difference. I'm constantly calling the police for surveillance because of drugs and parents are constantly calling because of prostitution right outside the school. My job is to educate parents regarding signs of pre-prostitution. I've had so much frustration because they're scared for their children and feel up against a wall. I'm also there to help people find resources.
- As an officer in the district for eight years I am frustrated personally with the turn that the district has taken since I have been here. Drug arrest is going on but I understand the frustration of others. I just had a case in drug court today.
- I feel frustrated and overwhelmed with the number of prostitutes in the neighborhood. It is really unbelievable. We call the cops all the time but nothing seems to come of it.
- I am very frustrated with the number of prostitutes that I see in the neighborhood. I call the police who chase them away for a while and then they just come right back. I called the police on 3 prostitutes just this afternoon. People are also driving very crazy around the neighborhood. I'm scared of cars while just walking my kids to the park.
- In my work in the neighborhood, I talk to people and know that high speed is a big problem, but I'm frustrated because when I am trying to get the same neighbors who are concerned to sign petitions to change things, no one does it. Also, prostitution is a big problem. It's frustrating when you're trying to call the police to report prostitutes and there's no response for 20 minutes. Prostitutes are trying to get in peoples' cars.
- I am fine calling the police, but the police sometimes does not come. A few days ago there was a car driving up the curb into the sidewalk. I called, but the police never came. It is frustrating.
- I would like to work in partnership with the police. But if I call the police and they don't show up for 20 or 30 minutes how can there be room for dialogue? How can we have a partnership?
- I have also heard from the community that the police never comes. I know that there is a call center, and sometimes officers are taking care of other calls. It is very important that each of you [referring to residents; the speaker was a community organizer] is involved because it is crucial to connect with neighbors to report anything suspicious. The neighborhood should continue working with faith.
- The police never comes. Every time that there is a fight, I called, I leave my number, but they never come.
- I think there should be certain telephone numbers that we can call for certain problems. They should be organized by area. I don't know how to answer the questions that I am asked when I call the police like "What district are you in?"
- For me, I've been living here for fifteen years and I have noticed the increase in noise, the cars booming and windows rattling. There are drugs and prostitutes. We are aware of the noise

ordinance but when we call to complain the persons answering the calls don't seem to know that there is one. That's how my husband and I are trying.

- I will keep calling the police, I gave up for a while but then I started to call again when things happened. My neighbors have wild parties with loud music. I need to start documenting and complaining about officers that aren't doing their job. We had the wildest incident the other day in the neighborhood where a teenaged girl was being kidnapped by someone in a car pulling her by her hair. When the police came they confronted the mother and her family instead of helping or trying to find the criminal. They were yelling at the mother and her kids and if they would have investigated and asked questions, the person that did it lives in the neighborhood! The police need to do a better job too!
- I agree authorities need better listening skills, calling the police can be hit or miss and racism or lack of cultural understanding are realities. You have the human factor at work as well, it depends on who takes the call and who is send out. I had a situation in front of my house just last week. My brother pulled up at my house the police pulled right behind them they were really rough and accused him of trying to pick up prostitutes, our goal should be to try to give some of these girls that end up selling their bodies a voice that is how we can make a difference, they get caught up with these pimps and drugs and are trapped by their lifestyles. Another problem with police is many of my neighbors are just Spanish speaking and there are language barriers with me and the police.

## **2.2 Intra-Community Relationship Building**

- I think developing relationships where we meet others who have the same goal is important. It's hard to make time. It takes work but I think forging relationships is important. I try to keep abreast of what's going on in the neighborhood and to volunteer. I try to make time and set an example.
- There is nothing to be done by an individual alone. We have to organize and build a group. We can make this community a better place by working together. I will work to motivate my neighbors and fellow community members.
- There are a lot of things I hope will stop. What's good is networking with neighbors. The majority of the arrests – the perpetrators and the victims – the majority of those doing it live here. A lot of times we don't know who our neighbors are. If we know them we're less likely to "hurt" them by doing undesired things in their yard etc. When people beautify the neighborhood there's less chance of crime there (broken windows theory). I can help organize block parties and meetings etc... let people see we're working together. I also think that we should work with the non-profits in our neighborhood to have them help us.
- I also agree with connecting with neighbors.
- Meeting new people. Getting new connections at the church. I like to meet people. We organize a 1-hour meeting to meet people and there were 20 people at our last meeting. I've met lots of people and I get lots of good information and now have many familiar faces because of the meetings and my reaching out.

- I used to try to resolve everything by myself, but now out of fear that violence will beget more violence, I am interested in working together with others. I want to encourage other neighbors to do the same.
- I want to start by knowing my neighbors and being unified with them.
- It's hard to get to know renters. People move in and out. I think the landlords need to screen the tenants better. I've lived here for a long time and don't know some of the renters.
- My neighbors on both sides of me do not socialize are very quiet and stay to themselves.
- I have an elderly neighbor that I take time to help every week, but taking time to take care of each other, especially the seniors, is important.
- We need to get better at communicating with each other as neighbors. We don't talk to each other enough.
- I think having these public safety meetings and bringing us all together is important. We meet people and learn where they live and can then share information about what we're seeing with each other... "I recognize this person..." I think we should do this maybe every 3 months.
- It is hard to get a response from people. We need the correct phone numbers of people in charge. A list of numbers would help.
- People need to show up. People don't show up. If you show up to community meetings, you will make a connection with the police and with neighbors. People need to form block clubs and make connections.
- I echo what others are saying. Where we struggle is the time commitment. We've been in Clarke Square for 6 months and we came from a neighborhood where the kids and families would all hang out and play together. I volunteer with neighborhood activities and that helps to increase familiar faces. I want to remember that it takes time for change to happen.
- In my work in the neighborhood in the month of October, I talked with a lot of residents about their concerns and then only 4 people came to the meeting with the police. Residents need to show up. Residents need to know that when resources don't get used, they go away. Things can improve block by block.
- One thing I would like to see change is there is a huge disconnect between people who call and the respondents. We get hundreds of calls each week and we have laws we have to abide by. If we don't have the witness who is calling, we have a certain process. Without witness information, our hands are tied. Something I can do as a goal is look at the community, there are hundreds of thousands of residents, and try to get more people to show up, more information to use, which is powerful.
- We should have a phone chain for the block. I can call my neighbors if something suspicious is happening. We can look out for each other
- It'll be helpful for neighbors to know each other and as a collective report the problems.
- Getting to know our neighbors [is a way we can help increase the quality of life in the neighborhood].
- Also, we can keep reporting things that we see.

- I've done my share of emails and am increasing awareness/responsibility with parents of kids at the school.
- I think it is important to create block groups, to take care of one's neighbors, and to work together to know what happens in the block, and to participate in the neighborhood cleanups. I think that all these activities would help to see our neighborhood as something different than a dump.
- I have been living in the neighborhood for 17 year. Having a block group is very important. I think it would be important to have an officer next to the factory [not specified which one,] like this summer, to stop crimes.
- I have a block group, and it has helped us a lot. For me, it is important to know the people that live around one in order to stop crime.
- I went to a block meeting. I want to do more of that. I want to exchange phone numbers with others, with you who are here tonight.
- I am the Block Captain, we started in September with our block watch club and we have had two meetings so far. We will be meeting again in December and I believe there is hope.

### **2.3 Ownership and Beautification of Neighborhood**

- Almost all the people who live on my block are renters. We are perhaps the only owner occupied house on the block. The renters do not take responsibility for the property. Things are in disrepair, people listen to loud music, they can be criminals and nobody says anything. The landlords don't care who they rent to and they are not held to account. The landlords need to be held responsible.
- Taking ownership
- What we need is to hold landlords to account. We need better inspections.
- There are many slumlords. They can buy dozens and hundreds of properties and not take care of them. When citations are issued we need people to make denunciations in court. If City Officials know that there are people willing to speak in front of a judge they will take the situation seriously, otherwise it is a waste of time. The process is very hard and long.
- I called the tow and they did not come in two days. The neighbors had to move the car because they could not get out of their garage and go to work.
- In my work in the neighborhood, I do collect evidence against landlords, but it is a long process. I need residents to agree to be witnesses.
- Properties that aren't taken care of affect the whole neighborhood. Rodents and cockroaches go from one house to another.
- (The people coming into the area, like drug dealers). They're not from the Southside. They sit, they leave, and you know they went back home. But we live here, we are still here.
- I believe we all want to do something but don't really know how to go about it.
- Here is some information for anyone on the city's nuisance ordinance if you are having problems with neighbors please call this number and keep calling the people in this circle have the power to take back their neighborhood its more of us than them.
- A neighbor woman got sick and lost their house I tried to buy it but the city wouldn't sell it to me the slumlord that ended up buying it now has 4 families with like 12 kids in this duplex! They are a nuisance and no one will do anything about it I am tired of the parties drugs, and violence I am moving I am too old for this!
- When people beautify the neighborhood there's less chance of crime there (broken windows theory).

- We try to lead by example. We keep our property well- tended. We pick up the beer bottles and condoms. I have no idea of what else we can do to improve.
- I can continue to keep up my own property. I can meet and know my neighbors. In summer, I think it's wonderful when the bike cops are out.
- What should start is projects that lend themselves to neighborhood beautification, specifically around littering. I answer to the most crimes in places where there's a general lack of caring, in neighborhoods that appear unkempt. One thing I can do is influence those I partner with to be good role models and show those (good) behaviors. When I see officers litter or ignore objects in the road, I think we should model that we are truly vested in the neighborhood. As simple as it may seem, we've gotta start somewhere.
- There are two boarded up house across the street from us. We need someone to buy them.
- We have built a garden in our yard and so often people compliment us on how great the yard looks now relative to how it looked with former owners. Even prostitutes are saying they like it. We live next to a gas station and we're always picking up garbage. We've added an extra garbage can and put it on that side, to encourage people to put their trash in it.
- We need more pressure on absentee landlords. We have so many complaints. We need something to hold landlords more accountable...it demeans our neighborhood. Finding dead bodies in empty houses isn't ok.
- The most important thing is that owners fix the problems with their rental properties.
- My house is next to the 'American football' stadium and people in the neighborhood throws garbage there after the games.
- I am tired of dealing with landlords who don't care who they rent to.
- Some of the deadbeat landlords that rent to these families, the houses are so rundown and the kids live by themselves pretty much. Some of them are causing problems on their own, the houses are so run down. Need to get some of the deadbeat landlords to fix the houses. The mothers are letting them destroy the houses, they are out until 11 pm, causing trouble. Families are living on their own and dealing drugs, need to sell the houses to people who will fix the houses and improve the neighborhood.
- I have lived here all my life for seventeen years and I see a lack of respect and destruction of property. Growing up the neighborhood was always clean and safe and everyone took care of their property. It's hard to see and hard to address how the neighborhood has been changed like this.
- Many times I see trash and I just pick it up. I lived 23 years in Brown Deer and we sold house and moved in this neighborhood because this is where my wife was pastoring and wanting to be where her parishioners were.
- Beautification of the area
- Is there some way to deal with people's dogs defecating where ever they want? Is there a law?
- Years ago the graffiti was unbelievable. You'd clean it up and the next day it was back.
- Didn't the city give us the supplies to clean it up?
- A Common theme I hear is gardening.
- Please know that in the summer it is very hard for us.
- In general I think things are better.
- Raising the quality of life.
- I recommend talking to the neighborhood organizers responsible for the cleaning of the stadium.
- I am wondering what the laws are regarding dogs

- We as police officers can give tickets to dog owners for letting their dogs make messes, but it's difficult to do without getting the personal information of the person who reported the mess.
- Now it is a problem, they use it to abuse my house. It started with kids and then older people, not from the neighborhood. They were hitting my windows...I had just gone through a death in the family and it was very disrespectful, I had to deal with them and it was a big group. I would like to turn it into an art lot, get the kids involved, make sculptures and flower beds.
- There was a park where the kids designed animals that become chairs, it's part of the KK restoration. Now it is a little more controlled, there are teams and fans for the sports events, now it is a structured community activity area.
- They've done it in other parks, we can do something beautiful. Brings attention, beautiful art. Kids see themselves in it as a part of it.
- Community art into the area, the problem is that kids are coming from outside the neighborhood and they could care less. So now what?
- I want to know more how to volunteer on cleaning up the neighborhood
- One thing I haven't heard is economic development. Do we need to clean up the neighborhood first before we attract new businesses? My dream is to have a shiny new school on 22<sup>nd</sup> & Greenfield. It's a chicken and egg thing, which happens first? New businesses on the street will help.
- It goes deeper than cleaning up crime and cleaning up the neighborhood so businesses want to come in. They need to see visible signs of affluence and support.
- It would take a whole corporation. Like National Avenue and King Drive have come a long way. They are vastly different than they were 10 years ago.
- For me as an officer, I have a different perspective. Arresting and writing citations do not always work. I see lack of respect for one's self. Having pride and a sense of neighborhood. There seems to be a lack of caring about the quality of life, so my job becomes more difficult because I am dealing with lots of issues that are at the base of the problem that I have been called to the scene or area for.
- A question I ask back is what is the quality of life? Because that term means different things for different people, see myself I don't have any kids make a good income own my own home. Sometimes I have a boyfriend 😊 but usually it's just me and my dog. I have what I need, but for those that are raising kids here or are elderly and want peace, what goes on around here is a big quality of life issue, most people want to see change, they want the drug dealers gone, the drug users and prostitutes to get help but don't know where to start. I am a luckily bi-lingual, we don't have that luxury so many language barriers exist. I am working hard to change the culture back to community, anybody in the community can have my number and call me to stay connected.
- It is great that we have spaces like this to talk about quality of life in the community that is one thing that needs to continue spaces like this!
- I want to see fewer bars and liquor licenses. They don't have as many in other neighborhoods so why here? I think it brings more "garbage" to the area. People can go elsewhere to buy liquor, instead of here, and can go live there, too! The only businesses without liquor licenses are the ice cream vendors.
- We also need more activities for youngsters. The children have plenty of activities, but I feel that teenagers do not. Having activities could resolve some of the problems that we have.
- I play baseball for the United Community Center (UCC). They have a lot of programs. I don't mind that place, they help out a lot. They have women's and men's houses, resources, drug

support, a restaurant and place for kids. It's our place if we have questions on drugs, addition or anything. What I can do is keep going.

## **2.4 Need for Police Presence and Action**

- With traffic issues, if people get together we can make a difference. Police need to give out a lot more tickets.
- I can continue arresting people that are up to no good, and taking them before the D.A.
- I would like to have more patrols before and after school hours because cars do not stop on the stop signs.
- I almost got a ticket because I was parked in the stadium fifteen minutes past midnight when there was a game the following day. I do not have a spot to park in front of my house!
- I think the process for neighbors to get together and get a speed bump put on their block should be made easier. There should be more police ticketing. There are no consequences for people's bad behavior.
- It's a tossup between increasing homeownership and more beat cops. I would pick beat cops and to see them stationed so that they don't move around. Then they can get to know people. I know it's difficult with shortages, but it would go a long way to identify problem properties. I can lobby my elected officials to have them do that.
- I agree it is hard to deal with and it seems the police are dealing more with social issues. I don't believe you can train children if the parents are not trying. I think we need a greater police presence and I would be willing to pay higher taxes for that. (reflection) I remember when we had beat cops and they called you out. Kids learned respect and accountability then. I've lived in the neighborhood for sixty years and I have seen the decline.
- I believe the police are so undermanned and they have to prioritize the calls. I wish they had a bigger presence also so they could address the larger concerns.
- I am now retired and I can see what is going on in the neighborhood. I live on 21<sup>st</sup> and Greenfield and I garden a lot. The presence of policemen would be great. I have my feelings about different cultures in the block and my feelings about certain houses and what goes on.
- If you keep telling the captain that you like seeing the bike cops, you may see more. They see things more easily than squad cops. I contribute by helping people bring their ideas for improvement to reality.
- I would like to continue to see more bike presence
- I think we've gotta have more bike cops. They see and hear everything and they go to yards and through the alleys.
- We need more bike cops.
- This neighborhood needs more patrols and bike cops.
- I think it would improve life in the neighborhood to reduce the sex trade. I can help by working with the Benedict Center.
- I will continue to participate in neighborhood forums and have Benedict Center staff participate, too. We can have Benedict Center outreach workers there to talk to the women. I/we can work

with police to encourage diversion and alternatives to incarceration for prostitutes. I'm hoping we can build partnerships.

- My focus is in one area, on communication but not individual homes. The focus is usually on the women who are in prostitution, but they are there because of a demand. People come to the neighborhood looking for them, they should target the buyers and the men who sell the prostitutes. It's difficult...we write down the license plate numbers and a description of the vehicles, we call if we see incidents like women being beaten. Be strong in a safe way, that's my contribution – one aspect of it.
  - We need to continue a multi-faceted approach to help the women stuck in sex trade. Diversion programs would help them with drug addiction and a safe place to go. Maybe there could be a training program in the neighborhood, so we can have conversations with the women. Everyone is stuck with bad decisions, I am as well, but how can we care for their souls? My heart goes out to them. They're being forced to live by someone else's bad decisions or their own.
  - I know a lot of situations (with prostitutes) are pretty sad. I can get more involved in the situation, finding ways to help lift prostitutes. It's sad they have to live like that. The UCC is a good idea. A community center is a great place to start. Getting them counseling, letting them know: you're not a bad person, you're a child of God.
  - Myself and some other neighbors, we formed the 26<sup>th</sup> St. Neighborhood Club. During events we have fun while we take the community back, some of the prostitutes are so bold they will walk up to people during the parties and proposition them... that's show how long we are from being where we need to be.
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**Round Three Question:** *“This is a two-part question. What motivates you to contribute to the efforts to increase the quality of life in the neighborhood? What holds you back?”*

### 3.1 Motivations

#### Pride in / Love for the Neighborhood & Property Value

- As I go walking around the streets I meet friends and neighbors and I feel a connection to this place.
- As far as motivation, I have a self-interest: my home value. I'd like to see the value maintained.
- As a father I have a long-term investment in the area. The positives of the area I like include that it's affordable, working class... good attributes which outweigh the problems. I see potential for growth. I want to be part of helping to get our neighborhood to become a “cool” neighborhood... We bought now so we could afford it before it becomes “cool.” The trade-off is that our family has resources now to do fun stuff like going to museums and increase the quality of our lives because it's affordable to live here. You get out what you put in.
- It motivates me because I live here. I want to be able to sell my home at a profit vs. a deficit, which it is now. I've gotten positive feedback about working in my yard, too.
- I am motivated that I have grown old here. Before, the drug situation was worse and I am motivated that the neighborhood is improving.
- I want to stay in the neighborhood, but only if things improve.

- For me, I grew up in Milwaukee. My father worked for the city and my family and friends live in the city. I do it for them, we all want the city to be good.
- What motivates me is that my husband and I bought our house when I was six months pregnant. My son is now 43, my neighbor is still there, my neighbor across the street's granddaughter now owns the house kitty corner. I take care of the house, improved it. Inside it's like a gallery, I truly love my house. I don't like what the neighborhood around the house has turned into. I wish people would take care of the houses like I take care of mine. I painted my neighbor's porch, helped him, he is disabled. I try to help, I do what I can. My son doesn't want me to live here anymore but I've done it all. I can't afford to sell my house and buy the something else the same. I have to take care of what I have.
- (Police Officer) What motivates me is loving this city. Despite lifting residence requirements, I've chosen to remain in the city. Also the general appreciation I have for this area, the residents I've met. I'm looking at this from a personal perspective. I truly feel I can make this place better by being a role model.
- Also, I have a problem of not having enough money to make the improvements I want to make to my home.
- I feel what has held me back was that I was unclear as to the role of the Block Captain. Now I have learned my role and that makes a big difference in my moving forward. I am a retired pastor, we lived in Brown Deer for 23 years and we moved here. When I talk about the decline of expressing respect we must realize people are not in the churches as they used to be, schools and home is different.
- As an officer I feel that sense of duty to serve. I liked when the house was removed on 21<sup>st</sup> and Scott and made into a community garden.
- I am motivated in trying to live out the scriptures in the bible. I went to seminary for eight years and I feel there is some modeling that we must do in the neighborhood such as more paying it forward. I think this would help build momentum.

### Neighbors and People in the Community

- I see people here at this meeting and that makes me feel much better.
- I'm motivated by you guys [looking at dialogue participants]. I want to make life better in this community.
- (Police Officer) Motivation is not a paycheck. I spent my entire life in service work. I have not moved outside of Milwaukee, so I understand what we are dealing with.
- A lot of people think I'm noisy, but that is OK. At our meetings on 19<sup>th</sup> Street this summer, we had lots of people show up and that motivates me.
- We want to meet our neighbors.
- At Christmas time we make the cookie rounds [and give home-baked Christmas cookies away to our neighbors].
- The people's energy motivates me. I want to keep on working in the community and to educate the residents.
- I am motivated by this type of programs to involve people and take care of the neighborhood for the children, who are the ones that are going to live here.
- I am motivated by people like the participants in this circle.
- Interacting with positive people in the community is helpful to counterbalance the negative. You don't always know what police officers are going through and what kind of day they've had. Sometimes if they're having a bad day they take things out on people. I want to improve my relationship with the community. I want to educate people in the community. I can't make promises of what I will always do, but I want to try.
- I want to keep coming to meetings about improving the neighborhood.

- I want more meetings about improving the neighborhood.
- I am motivated by the people who are interested in the things that happen in the neighborhood. I have switched to a department in the police where I can ride bicycles because I am assigned to a specific area where everybody knows me.
- I am motivated because I see a lot of neighbors here tonight.
- I have started riding my bike through the neighborhood with my son and started to get to know neighbors that way. It's a start. I am motivated to want to keep that going.
- When my husband and I bought our house we were very young and the people on the block were older. They were very welcoming, they brought things, brought a bucket of candy for my son. We knew them, they didn't always like what we did but we knew each other. Over the years, now we are the old guys, and it's a very different atmosphere. It's very diverse, but not much response when we reach out. I think they are Hmong, we would like to be part of a community. I feel like everyone is very isolated on the block. I don't know what holds me back, maybe I need a little kick. They are so sweet, they helped us when our car was stuck, but they don't speak English well.
- I don't live in the Clarke Square area, I live just outside. I bought my second house, it was predominately English speaking then and now it is predominately Spanish. I love the music and the parties in the summer, but it's different to communicate and look out for the neighbors. I have a very nice weed...a legitimate weed...in the front yard. My neighbor, a couple bought the house, brother and sister. They are Spanish speaking, she was trying to tell me you could eat it [the weed], can eat it with "bif" [beef]. It's called verde ligo, that helped them to build some community. At first the language barrier was rough.
- Homeownership is huge, building those relationships is important.
- I'm here longer than they (my sons) are but they know more. There's no respect for elders. My motivation is to be a role model.
- What motivates me: People like the ones we have in the room now, that do have a sense of community and want us to do better.
- What motivates me: Our community, the people, the warm hearts, the smiles, the kids I volunteer anywhere they will take me and I take my nieces and nephews with me. The thanks I receive is enough pay so I will work for free.
- What motivates me: My calling to serve, I feel I am not doing enough. I have a need to have solidarity with others because I am not an island my morals make it so I have to be responsible for others so my motivation is internal.

### Safety of Residents, Especially Children

- Holdbacks: I don't wanna go too far down the block [to neighbors I don't know to give away cookies].
- There are people who are not concerned about to whom they are renting apartments. I am concerned that there are drunk people that walks by where I live.
- After the Pick n Save closed I feel bad about the place, I feel bad about safety.
- After we see so much violence and conflict we feel tired. But know that I want to do better.
- I want to live in a safe neighborhood and have a nice looking house.
- I like the neighborhood. I think the more engaged people are the safer it will be.
- There was a shooting at 11pm on our block this week... it's really close and that's unsettling to me. I want to not have to worry about it all the time.
- To safely host more events and to participate in the events that one commits to. I want my kids to live here. The place was much worse when I was born. I want to stay here.

- I continue working because I want that children are safe.
- I am motivated to have this community represented in the crime prevention plan.
- I am motivated to improve the neighborhood. I would like to have speed bumps because cars go very fast.
- I want the neighborhood to improve. When the Pick'n'Save left, I feel like the police presence left too.
- Be a block watcher. Watch your block.
- Walking the neighborhood is a positive thing. What is not positive is my concern about getting robbed. I had an incident where I got pulled by my chain (around my neck) when leaving a store. The main thing is cracking down on illegal activity. I can't walk to Mitchell Park without wondering if I'm going to get approached by punks, drug pushers. My brother got pushed off his bike last summer. I used to enjoy walks, and I want to keep up my walks without having my chain snatched off my neck.
- What Holds me back: Safety comes first, some scenarios around here are a downright hazard and I need to be safe to fight another day also the problems are so big sometimes I don't know where to start.
- In my job as a police officer, I am motivated by the people who are here tonight, positive people. We, as police officers, spend a lot of time with negative situations and people. The job is tough and it gets to you. Especially for us men, we can tend to hold everything inside.

### Faith

- I want to continue, I believe religion and faith has a huge part here. The city is asking the churches to come and help. I believe the Lord Jesus Christ is our answer. My wife and I believe he is real and he walks with us.
- I pray for the officers all the time and I believe the officers are doing a good job.
- For me, I've had experience with all this. I would like prostitutes to know another way with faith in the Lord.
- I try to reach out and plant seeds because I believe God sent me here for a reason.

## **3.2 Hold Backs**

### Sense of Fear and Hopelessness

- In some ways we live our lives like kidnap victims. Stuck in our homes due to fear. I don't want that.
- I go into a lot of neighborhoods sometimes it feels dangerous and I am scared.
- Holdback: My fear of retaliation.
- What holds me back is fear... we're police but we get scared too. I worry about my parents getting older and worry about them being victims of crimes. I fear putting myself at risk now that others are dependent on me (child).
- What Holds me back: I feel overwhelmed by the issue at hand I don't think we have enough resources to solve to problem, sometimes it seems hopeless and like it will only get worse.
- What stops me is the fear that somebody is subject to retaliation because of one of my recommendations. I have not experienced any consequence on myself but I fear for others.
- I am held back by being terrified to leave my house.
- In regards to crime in our neighborhood, what holds you back is fear of retaliation. We have had that in the community. My daughter says don't call.
- What holds me back is my fear that I might get hit by a car.
- It scares me that they see me write the number down, but I do it anyways, even with the consequences. What scares me is that if I call the cops, and give the license plate number, will I get shot up? Will they

come after me? I walk to the store every night and I'm like, "Man. Should I call the cops?" I see cars sitting for an hour (drug dealing) but I know they see me.

- What holds me back is fear. I wouldn't even know where to begin. I guess I should ask Donald Trump? (sarcastic).
- I am scared to call the police to report drug deals that I witness.
- (Police Officer) I know fear holds residents back, but we need information and participation from everyone.
- Sometimes I have fear when it comes to stepping out in faith.
- My fear: today I'd be afraid to say, "Don't park there in front of [the concrete] pathway [to my house]."

#### Trust and Communication challenges between Police and Residents

- I am held back by communication breakdowns. A neighbor tries to fix something and tries to call and then I (as an official) don't hear about it and so I am not able to help
- I called that cops once because people were selling drugs out of a house on my block. They came to my house and asked me to come out with them and point out the house. I'm not doing that. It can't work like that. That prevents me from having confidence in the police.
- (Police Officer) Holdbacks: Road blocks in communication. Being afraid of threats in the community. More ways to get rid of that will be a big help. After a shooting people fear that if they can come forward their life will be threatened.
- (Police Officer) It's hard because it's such a big question for me. It's important to have credibility by living in the neighborhood. While I live in a different neighborhood in Milwaukee I look forward to working in this area and to practice my Spanish. My family was part of "White Flight" and I wanted to come back to the city and be part of the vibrancy. What holds me back is pushback from others: "You're enabling the sex workers." I appreciate listening circles like this... it helps to sensitize me.
- If we work with the police and call them when needed things will be better.
- But cops are people and if all we hear is negatives we feel bad.
- (Police Officer) It's not a paycheck. Seeing the change and differential developments and people coming up to us telling us about the improvements.
- Holdback: It's not like on TV. It's not like what people think [the job of policing neighborhoods].
- In my life I have always been motivated to advocate for people. In my work in the neighborhood, I don't know how to put limits sometimes on what I promise people. Maybe I promise too much sometimes. I got very excited doing the block by block meetings this past summer, but sometimes I have trouble gaining residents' confidence.
- When I see something, I get the license number and I do call the cops. I know they're not from here (drug dealers, prostitutes).

#### Time and Resources Constraints

- What holds me back is that I wish I had more time. I want time with my kids and my wife, too. I'm going to have my kids come to this school because we believe in what we're doing there.
- What holds me back is time. It needs to be the norm for us to put the time in and to be involved in the neighborhood and to model involvement.
- What holds me back is time... there aren't enough hours in the day.
- What holds me back is that I'm not always here – I have family out of state who I care for so I'm gone several days a week. I'm retired but I don't have a lot of time.
- Sometimes my job holds me back, sometimes it's fast paced, and you feel like you get judged.
- What holds me back is time. I don't live here. My wife makes me come home at night. But I love the neighborhood and do the best possible job for them.
- What hold me back are time restraints such as school, homework and working with my father.

- I think and agree with time restraints as well. When I retire in five years I plan to become more involved.
- What Holds me back: When I open up to the girls I don't have the adequate resources that they need at my disposal, they need support a place to live a job, rehab etc.
- What holds me back: Time management, it seems it's not enough time to fix problems and work and be with family.
- What holds me back: Again it's time trying to balance work and home life is hard enough but to be active in the community is even harder.

#### Lack of Resident Engagement & Disrespectful Neighbors

- When it feels like there is no solution and no way to fix the problems that is not a good feeling. My whole block is rented apartments, nobody cleans or does yard work and maintains the place.
- I feel that I've held back on improving my yard and doing outdoor projects because people steal off of porches and there's trash everywhere... people are disrespectful... why bother?
- When I first moved in, it was quiet and calm. I was so happy, then the wild ones moved in. I called the police, anonymous. I have to be really tough, just call the cops myself, but I cannot be block captain because then they'll know it's us. I'm trying.
- I want to get organized with neighbors, but I am held back by being surrounded by so many renters who don't care. There is so much trash around and people don't clean their sidewalks and then I need to do it.
- I am stopped by those people who do not want to help, especially to improve the life of young people.
- I am stopped by not having more people here.
- I am demotivated by the people that refuse my help, do not want to talk to me or do not want to participate.
- What holds me back is fighting against politics, lack of funding, and apathy from individuals I think should be more involved in this neighborhood. I am frustrated at the lack of engagement from people who absolutely should be engaged.