

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****October 11, 2016****Page 1 of 2****SUBJECT: WESTSIDE RESOURCE FAIR**

The purpose of this Informal Report is to inform the City Council that the Community Engagement team, in partnership with Council District 3, will be hosting a Westside Resource Fair on Oct. 22, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Western Hills United Methodist Church, located at 2820 Laredo in Fort Worth. This fair is one of many Community Engagement special projects the team is organizing to expand our community outreach efforts throughout our city.

Over the last twelve months, the Community Engagement team has attended more than 400 neighborhood association, alliance, public and planning meetings to help educate neighbors about city services, timely initiatives and connect them to departments who can assist them with the challenges they face. However, the City needs to do a more effective job with multifamily developments since everyone should have the same opportunities to learn about City services and programs, receive notices about upcoming public meetings and have access to valuable community connections.

The Community Engagement team already registers neighborhood associations, alliances, school districts, redevelopment corporations, crime prevention organizations and faith-based organizations to receive and distribute zoning notifications and the *Community Engagement Weekly Bulletin*. The bulletin lists upcoming public meeting notices (*by district*), current updates on city services, programs and new initiatives. If a multifamily development is not registered with the City, multifamily residents will not have the same access to this valuable information.

Working with the Council District Directors, two initiatives were identified:

1. Begin a targeted focus to register Multifamily Developments as Residential Associations
  - Partner with the Multifamily Crime Prevention team to ensure compliance with their training and program standards and assist with crime reduction
  - Provide free leadership training, community outreach and volunteer recruitment training to new Resident Association board members
  - Offer assistance in locating guest speakers for Residential Association meetings.
  - Encourage property managers to share the *Community Engagement Weekly Bulletin* with their residents.
  
2. Host local resource fairs to connect residents to:
  - Valuable City services
  - Existing neighborhood associations and alliances
  - Faith-based programs, non-profit organizations and other area agencies

Community Engagement identified Las Vegas Trail as the perfect opportunity to begin this initiative due to the confluence of multifamily developments. The team met with key stakeholders including: The Western Hills Methodist Church, Western Hills Elementary School, Western Hills High School, Western Hills Primary School and the Westside YMCA to identify potential partners. With the assistance of Council District 3, the result is this first community resource fair focusing on Multifamily Developments residents and will include the following partnerships:

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**SUBJECT: WESTSIDE RESOURCE FAIR****• City of Fort Worth Departments**

- Community Engagement Team
- Neighborhood Services
- Community Action Partners - *Cowboy Santa's/Silver Stars; Emergency Rent Solutions; Families in Transition Program*
- Crime Prevention Unit - *Crime Prevention Programs, Code Blue*
- Library - *Library Card Sign-up; Worth Reading Programs*
- Human Relations - *Anti-discrimination, Federal Housing, Employment, and Accommodation Laws*

**• Area Non-Profits/Agencies**

- Fort Worth SPARC - *OST programs and related services*
- Trinity Habitat for Humanity - *Housing programs*
- Tarrant County College - *Community college*
- Lena Pope Home - *Parenting classes and child counseling*
- The Parenting Center - *Parenting and child counseling*
- ACH Child & Family Services - *Youth and family services*
- FWISD O.P.E.N. Doors Program - *Services to homeless families*
- AARP - *Services for senior adults*
- Tarrant Area Food Bank - *Nutrition and food for underserved*
- Catholic Charities - *Translation and interpretation services*
- The Women's Center - *Safety, employment, counseling for women*
- Meals on Wheels

This specialized event will offer adults and children of all ages' access to everything from parenting classes, after-school care, nutrition assistance, library services, counseling services, senior adult services and much more. This event will help build greater levels of trust among multifamily development managers, neighbors, City staff, local neighborhood associations and the surrounding communities.

Immediately after the Westside Resource Fair, the team will meet with key stakeholders to incorporate any lessons learned into a comprehensive blueprint to be used in other Council Districts.

Internal and external agencies who are interested in being a part of future collaborative efforts with the Community Engagement team are encouraged to reach out to the team by phone at: (817) 392-6201 or email at: [engagement@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:engagement@fortworthtexas.gov). If you have any questions about this IR, please contact Michelle Gutt, Director of Communications & Public Engagement at 817-392-6248 or [michelle.gutt@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:michelle.gutt@fortworthtexas.gov).

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