

Data-Driven Decision Making in West Baltimore for Smart Technology Planning

Heritage Crossing Meeting #1 Recap

620 N. Fremont Street

April 4, 2018, 6-8pm

Agenda:

- **Description of the Smart Cities project**
- **BNIA-JFI overview presentation:** What is data, how do community indicators represent issues/concepts that people care about
- **Review of Upton/Druid Heights community data profile:** Key trends
- **Discussion:** What issues does the community want addressed? What information would Heritage Crossing like for the next meeting?

As a part of the Smart Cities project, The Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance – Jacob France Institute (BNIA-JFI) coordinated with the Johns Hopkins Center for Government Excellence (GovEx) and the Heritage Crossing Residents Association to conduct a community meeting to discuss data as it may relate to smart technologies. The first meeting, in a series of two, was geared towards introducing residents to data that is available for the community through BNIA-JFI's routinely produced Community Profiles and the Baltimore City Planning Department's American Community Survey neighborhood profiles.

BNIA-JFI highlighted several trends in the greater Upton/Druid Heights Community Statistical Area, including teen birth rate, property crime rate, chronic student absenteeism, unoccupied housing, and travel time to work. Emphasis was placed on how administrative datasets from Baltimore City agencies can be analyzed to create community indicators that can be tracked over time.

Following BNIA-JFI's presentation, the community was given an opportunity to discuss questions they had about the community, issues they wanted addressed, and information they would like to have about Heritage Crossing in the future. Below is a list of ideas, datasets, and questions raised by the residents:

Local Economy

- How can "big box" stores, including full-sized grocery stores, open in the community- what is the needed market demand?
- Business revenue: How much income is being generated in corner stores?
- What is the spending power of the community?
- What is the business owner turnover rate?
- How many community members work near the neighborhood, particularly young adults?
- What is the current employment and wage rates of workers who live in the neighborhood?
- Issue: Commercial businesses illegally dumping food waste into the community

Housing and Community Development

- How can the median household income be raised to be comparable to the city value?
 - How many new residents, at what income levels, would be needed?
 - How can property taxes remain steady despite new community investment and increasing neighborhood home values?

- What will happen to vacant lots (recent demolitions) of Argyle Street – new construction, by whom?
- How can the community track ownership information of properties that are unoccupied?
- How can the community learn about new residents as they move into the community?
- How do water bills in the community differ from the average bill for Baltimore City and other jurisdictions?
- How can Heritage Crossing market itself to middle and upper income households to encourage investment in the community?
- How many people move to Baltimore City every year?
 - Are they homeowners or renters?
 - What is their socioeconomic background?
- How are schools in the community performing?

Community Engagement

- What is the best way to digitally engage with the community to inform residents about events?
 - Newsletters
 - Community website
 - HOA membership list
- How can the Heritage Crossing community participate in arts-related programming, such as Light City or transformative art?
- How can Heritage Crossing become a Healthy Neighborhoods site?

Community Supervision Population/Homeless

- How large is the homeless population?
 - How can smart technology address panhandling?
- How many sex offenders live in the community?
- Are there any group homes for ex-offenders near the community and if so, how many residents live there?

Community Safety

- How much crime in the community is occurring near corner stores?
 - How many 911 calls are being made in these areas?

Proposed Plan for Meeting #2: Smart Development for Smart Communities:

The second community meeting for Heritage Crossing will occur on Monday, June 11, 2018. At the second meeting residents will use computers to learn how to access data and information for their community. Based on the residents' questions and concerns about the community, BNIA-JFI will provide hands-on training on the following:

- Vital Signs
 - *Objectives:* Participants will learn how to access community-based indicators discussed during Meeting #1.
- Open Baltimore
 - *Objectives:* Participants will learn about the crime and vacancy data available on the City's open data portal. They will learn how to query datasets, filter information for the neighborhood, and download the data.
- Real Property Data Search
 - *Objectives:* Participants will learn how to query homeowner information for properties in the community.
- NextDoor
 - *Objectives:* Learn how to use the community engagement platform in Heritage Crossing.