

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

State Center Neighborhood Alliance Meeting #1 Recap

11 W. Mount Royal Avenue (University of Baltimore)

April 16, 2018, 6-8pm

Attendees (24):

- 3 representatives from State Center Neighborhood Alliance
- 3 representatives from Mount Vernon-Belvedere Association (MVBA)/Mount Vernon
- 2 representatives from Seton Hill neighborhood
- 5 representatives from Bolton Hill Community Association (BHCA)/ Mount Royal Improvement Association (MRIA)
- 3 representatives from McColloh Homes
- 2 representatives from the Marble Hill neighborhood
- 2 representatives from BNIA-JFI (Seema Iyer, Cheryl Knott)
- Gerrit Knaap, University of Maryland-College Park
- Kat Klosek, Johns Hopkins University
- Eric Stephenson, No Boundaries Coalition
- Brandon Carrera, KPMG LLC

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
- **Small Discussion:** What issues does the community want addressed? What information would SCNA members like for the next meeting? What open source topics are of interest to the community?
- **Report Back:** What were topics discussed in the small group discussions?

As a part of the Smart Cities project, The Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance – Jacob France Institute (BNIA-JFI) coordinated with the State Center Neighborhood Alliance 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 and Midtown Community Statistical Areas, including rental housing affordability, chronic absenteeism, CitiStat calls for service for dirty streets and alleys, violent crime, 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 the neighborhoods within the State Center Neighborhood Alliance. Below is a list of ideas, datasets, and questions raised by the residents:

Open Data/Data Quality

- What are more up-to-date datasets for obtaining demographic data?
- Can/will Baltimore Police share the initial versus final disposition of 911 calls on Open Baltimore?
- What are the differences between having data and using data?
- How often are open datasets updated?
- Idea: Incentivize agencies to open their data
- How can local agencies integrate their data and work into city datasets?
 - Examples: Is/can Midtown Community Benefits District sharing their tree planning statistics with TreeBaltimore? Can they provide data on trash pickup/cleaning?
- Integrate the 311 CitiStat databases to ensure the web app requests are being shared on Open Baltimore
- Is there a better way for residents to track the 311 service requests?
- Who is accessing the internet through smart phones/computers? Who would be the data provider to share this information?

Demographics

- How many children are attending private school versus public school?
- How many residents in the neighborhood are living in group quarters?

Housing

- How many homes are being sold for cash?
- What is the historic tax credit usage in the community?

Employment

- How many residents in the area are state or federal employees?
- Where do residents in the community commute to? Within Baltimore, surrounding counties, Washington D.C.?

Education

- What are the factors that may lead to chronic absenteeism and how can it be reduced?
- Idea: Analyze the road networks that children use to get to school and see how it relates to chronic absenteeism (calculate optimal routes in Google)

Sanitation/Environment

- How much trash/recycling is collected in the neighborhood?
- Are bus stops cleaner when the MTA provides trash cans? Analyze with 311 calls to report trash/illegal dumping

Health

- What is the prevalence of diabetes, HIV, and other diseases in the community?
- How many residents are seeking treatment for opioids?
- Who is accessing affordable health insurance options in the community, including Medicaid and Medicare?

Proposed Plan for Meeting #2

The second community meeting for State Center Neighborhood Alliance will occur in May 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:* Residents will learn about the datasets available on the City's open data portal. They will learn how to search for datasets, filter information for their neighborhood, and download the data.

- LEHD On the Map tool
 - *Objectives:* Residents will learn about the types of data available from the On the Map tool, they will learn how to search for statistics pertaining to jobs and employment for their neighborhood, and download a summary report.

- Baltimore City Community Health Profiles
 - *Objectives:* Residents will learn about the indicators available for the community from the Baltimore City's Community Health profiles and will learn how to access the data in profile format.