

# EMPOWER North Park

## *A Community Development Initiative*



# Agenda

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**I.** What is the Empower North Park Initiative

**II.** Key Elements of Initiative

**III.** LB Listens Survey & Results

**IV.** Recommendations of Working Group

**V.** Recent & Ongoing Initiatives

*“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” – MLK*



## A Special THANK YOU to the Working Group

Thank you for your continued commitment & support.

- Chandra Akins, City of Long Beach's Department of Public Works;
- Gloria Ayala, City of Long Beach's Tax Assessor Department;
- Helen Dorado-Alessi, Executive Director of the LB Latino Civic Association;
- James Hodge, Chairman of the MLK Center Inc. Board of Directors;
- Mark Moses, Pastor of the New Life Church of Disciples of Christ;
- Runnie Myles, Community Activist;
- Jaquetta Odom, President of the Concerned Citizens of North Park;
- Marcus Tinker, Community Activist;
- Leary Wade, Community Activist;
- Natalie White, City of Long Beach's Comptroller's Department and;
- Kathy Williams, Community Activist.

## What is the Empower North Park Initiative

The objective of the Empower North Park Community Development Initiative is to engage members of the North Park Neighborhood to identify areas of improvement and policy solutions to determine HOW and WHERE City resources should be allocated.

 *The overarching mission is for the City of Long Beach to alleviate barriers, expand opportunity, and work with community members.*

## Key Elements of Initiative

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### Long Beach Listens, North Park Community Survey

- ✓ Survey was administered in August 2015 by students from LB MLK Center Inc. and the LB Latino Civic Association. 251 respondents, with 54 in Spanish.
  - ✓ Survey categories: (i) Economic Growth and Workforce Training; (ii) Housing and Community; (iii) and Recreation and Programs.
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### Empower North Park Working Group

- ✓ Formed in November 2015 and is composed of community leaders from the North Park Neighborhood. Meetings will continue in 2016.
  - ✓ The purpose of the working group is to engage community leaders in developing policies and solutions to move the North Park Neighborhood forward.
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### Youth Engagement – *The Future of our Community*

- ✓ Survey was administered by young individuals who were recommended by the LB Latino Civic Association and the LB Martin Luther King Center Inc.
- ✓ City officials have attended meetings of the Long Beach High School's African American Club to discuss the issues of the community and garner feedback. Meetings will continue in 2016.

## LB Listens Survey

The survey was conducted over the course of two weeks in August 2015. It was created by the City and administered by ten high school students from the LB Martin Luther King Center Inc. and LB Latino Civic Association. With the goal of identifying the needs of the community and determining solutions, the survey focused on three areas:

- ✓ Economic Growth and Workforce Training;
- ✓ Housing and Community;
- ✓ Recreation and Programs.

### **RESULTS:**

The survey yielded 251 responses, 54 of which were in Spanish. The three most popular results from the survey were all from the Recreation & Programs areas:

**1**

90% agreed Youth Programming needs to be expanded.

**2**

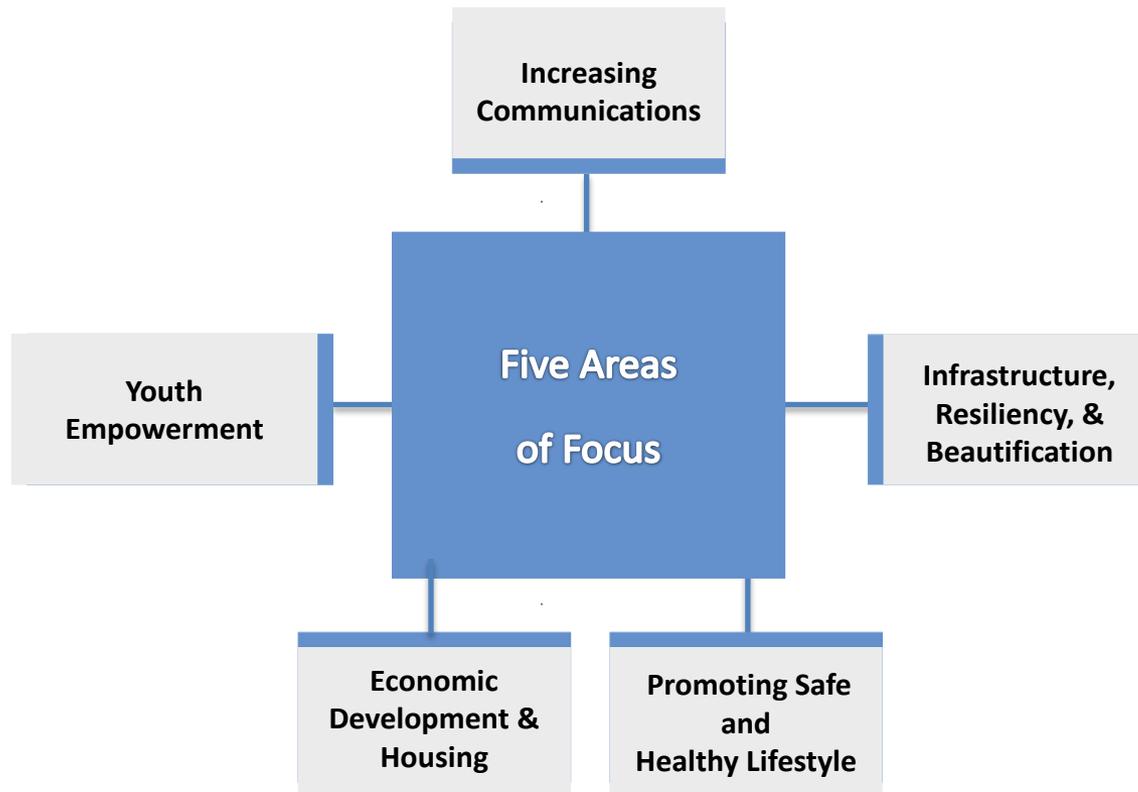
75% agreed Mental Health Services need to be improved.

**3**

73% agreed there is a need for drug prevention education & programming.

# Working Group Recommendations

The North Park Working Group attendees developed policy recommendations for each of the questions explored in the survey. The five areas of focus are presented below and delineated on the next slide.



## Working Group Recommendations Con't

### Increasing Communications

- Engage community groups/community forums with City officials;
- Create a North Park Facebook group & email list serve;
- Expand the language access policy;
- Provide advance notice for community events.

### Youth Empowerment

- Summer internships, mentorship programs & continue job training/apprenticeship programs;
- Increase youth programs, combining youth and senior programs when applicable.

### Economic Development & Housing

- Entrepreneurship programs, business panels and workshops;
- Holistic financial literacy trainings;
- Adult education, job/ apprenticeship training programs;
- Continue enforcing building codes;
- Home ownership and down payment programs;
- Explore inclusionary zoning ordinance.

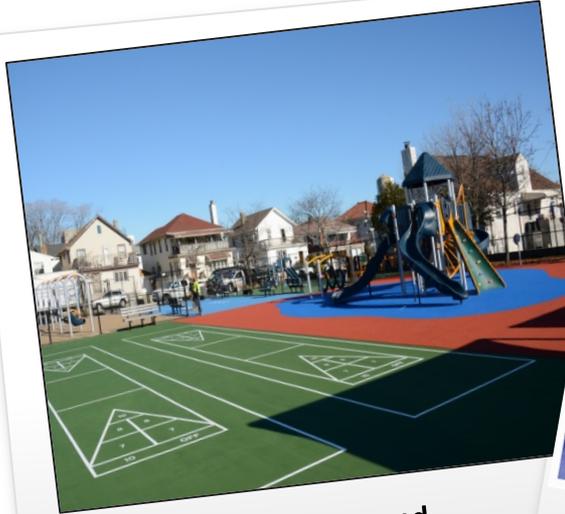
### Infrastructure, Resiliency, & Beautification

- More trash/recycle bins around the community;
- Increase greenery;
- Bulkheading;
- Clear Brownfields;
- Display public art from local artist;
- Beneficial NP projects included in Comprehensive Plan
- Educational programs focusing on environmental justice.

### Promoting Safe and Healthy Lifestyle Choices

- Senior programming targeted for the neighborhood;
- Continue advancing community policing methods;
- Diversify the police force by creating strategies to hire more officers of color;
- Consider adopting a Civil Complaint Review Board;
- Nutrition Programs;
- Identify strategies to improve mental health services;
- Substance abuse and harm reduction programs;
- Advocate for a community clinic;
- Comprehensive family planning.

## Recent & Ongoing Initiatives



**Leroy Conyers Playground**  
Renovated in Dec 2015



**Women & Minority Business Seminar**  
Oct 2015 LB Business Expo

The current City Administration has made a significant investment in the empowerment of the North Park Neighborhood since taking office in 2012. On the next few slides you will find a comprehensive list of recent & ongoing programs & projects .

## Recent & Ongoing Initiatives Con't

- ✓ ***Brownfield Applications Submitted*** - The City will continue to seek out these opportunities to address brownfields along the Bayfront so that any potential hazards are removed and the land can be reused and benefit the community.
- ✓ ***Business Seminar Targeting Women and Minority Entrepreneurs*** - On October 21, 2015, in partnership with Sustainable Long Island and Citibank, the City hosted a Long Beach Business Expo. This expo took place at the Long Beach Martin Luther King Center and targeted women and minority entrepreneurs.
- ✓ ***Community Development Grants for Nonprofits*** - The City has provided Project Excellence in Motion Inc., the Long Beach Latino Civic Association and the Long Beach Martin Luther King Center Inc. with resources to have projects and programming in the North Park Neighborhood.
- ✓ ***Comprehensive Plan Update and Local Waterfront Revitalization Program*** - On June 16, 2015 a meeting was held at North Park's Martin Luther King Center where attendees were able to vote on potential vision statements; highlight what they want to see when it comes to land use, transportation, community health, etc.

## Recent & Ongoing Initiatives Con't

- ✓ ***Funds Secured for Bulkheading*** - In 2015, the Long Beach City Council approved adding a uniform bulkhead system across the entire North Shore of Long Beach. Funds were secured from the state and federal government. The project is now in its design phase.
- ✓ ***Increased Community Policing Methods*** - The City remains dedicated to finding ways to build trust and foster relationships between the Police Department and the North Park Neighborhood. Police officers patrol set areas, allowing them to cultivate relationships with the community. The City has partnered with the Nassau County District Attorney's office and community organizations.
- ✓ ***Job Training Programs with Youth Build and The United Way*** - The City has partnered with organizations such as Youth Build and The United Way to provide job training programs at the MLK center. The programs helped residents create/update resumes, find jobs, and prepare for interviews.
- ✓ ***Language Access Legislation*** - In April 2015, the Long Beach City Council established an official Language Access Policy to ensure the provision of appropriate translation and interpretation services for Long Beach residents with limited English proficiency (LEP).

## Recent & Ongoing Initiatives Con't

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- ✓ ***Rain Garden*** - In collaboration with Sustainable Long Island, during summer of 2015, City Hall staff and volunteers from the Long Beach Martin Luther King Center Inc. and the Long Beach Latino Civic Association built a rain garden behind Sherman Brown Park.
- ✓ ***Removal and Replacement of Damaged Trees*** - The project was carried out in 2015, and fully funded by the state and federal governments with a one year warranty on all trees planted.
- ✓ ***Renovation of Sherman Brown Park*** - Sherman Brown Park was renovated and reopened in the summer of 2015. A brand new safety surface and basketball court was installed. The park was designed with community input and was fully funded by FEMA.
- ✓ ***Renovation of Leroy Conyers Playground*** - Leroy Conyers Playground was renovated and reopened in December 2015. The park was designed by the community and funded by FEMA. The renovations included new equipment, safety surfacing, BBQ pits, a splash park and benches.

## Recent & Ongoing Initiatives Con't

- ✓ ***Renovation of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center*** - Reconstruction efforts included a new gym floor, bathrooms, boiler, and the installation of a state-of-the-art kitchen.
- ✓ ***Road Improvements*** - This administration has completed three times the amount of projects per year, than the previous administration. The City has accelerated roadway resurfacing and reconstruction projects. Most recently, in the North Park Neighborhood, renovations were made to Pine Street, located between Reverend J.J. Evans Boulevard and Long Beach Boulevard.
- ✓ ***The Council of Thought and Action*** - COTA is administered through the Nassau County District Attorney's Office. In the later stages of the program's development, the City partnered with the DA's office and the Martin Luther King Center Inc. to bring COTA to Long Beach in October 2015.
- ✓ ***Transportation and Bus Survey*** - The City's Department of Economic Development conducted a bus survey in August 2015 to assess the overall satisfaction of the City's Bus System, determine need for improvements and to find out how ridership can be increased. The North Park Neighborhood was a targeted community in this survey.

## Taking the Next Steps - 2016

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The City will continue to meet with the Empower North Park working group over the next few months to plan & implement feasible recommendations. To get involved please the Department of Community Development @ 516-705-7288 or [sjames@longbeachny.gov](mailto:sjames@longbeachny.gov).

Thank you

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