



Morristown United for Healthy Living

November 28th, 2016, 5:30pm- 7:30pm, St. Margaret's Catholic Church

Minutes in blue

5:30 **Welcome & introductions**

5:45 **Review of current data on housing and financial inequity**

- See accompanying slides for details

6:00 **Develop results and impact statements**

- The majority of the meeting was spent discussing and co-creating our result and impact statement. Current versions are below:
 - **Result (our rallying cry):** Affordable, accessible, fair, equitable, healthy, safe and smart housing for all residents of Morristown's census tract 435
 - **Impact statement (overview of the work we plan to do):** We will improve the condition of existing homes, increase affordable housing stock (rented and owned), and improve the built environment/community infrastructure via resident education & outreach, policy change/advocacy, and oversight of existing protections for all people living in 435.
 - We also discussed adding to the end of the impact statement "...with a particular focus on low-income and undocumented neighbors" or "...with a particular focus on historically marginalized groups" or "...with a particular focus on those not afforded the same resources/opportunities as others." We will finalize this portion at our next meeting.
- This discussion also led to the development of some potential strategies to address our priority issues:



- Educate residents on housing rights and opportunities (e.g., forums and direct support for issues related to qualifying for affordable housing, tenant rights, protection against retribution, loan and savings programs, peer support networks; build off existing community resources)
- Identify properties for construction/renovation (working with Morris Habitat for Humanity)
- Mobilize residents; identify specific policy mechanisms; advocate for change
- Support residents by helping to assure existing housing protections are enforced

6:30 **Assess what else we need to know (data, policies)**

- Town housing data (stock, conditions, home ownership, etc.)
 - Rental to ownership ratio (get from Property Maintenance Administration; Housing Authority)
- State and local policies related to housing (especially those related to discrimination and retribution; renters rights)
- Outreach to existing groups (e.g., affordable housing alliance, Rent Leveling Board)
- 1 on 1s with key stakeholders
- What resources currently exist related to this topic?
- Bring in experts to present to group?

7:00 **Review/amend/approve Community Organizer position description**

- See accompanying position description

7:20 **Notifications/Upcoming events**

- [From Nate Diskint](#): currently working on a project focused on housing for people with disabilities. His firm will cover the down payment; looking for an organization to co-own and help manage. He is also working on a mobile application that will act as a one-stop-shop for all Morristown activities and resources; looking for investors. For more information contact nrdiskint@gmail.com.



- Brian Lozano: Informational/organizing meeting for DACA recipients and other interested parties TONIGHT (12/1) at 7:00 @ Wind of the Spirit- 120 Speedwell Ave.

NEXT MEETING: December 19th, 5:30-7:30pm St. Margaret's Church

Next Steps:

- 1) Brainstorm additional strategies/best practices for addressing our priority issues
- 2) Disseminate the position description (attached) to help us recruit applicants for Community Organizer
- 3) Continue to recruit additional stakeholders to join our coalition