

# Sharswood/Blumberg Choice Neighborhoods

Housing & Neighborhood Task Force Meeting #4

October 2, 2014

## Questions/Comments:

### 1. 57 Units – Who gets to go to those?

- Erik Solivan, PHA – 57 units will be developed prior to the demolition of the towers. Throughout the process, we'll bring back many more. 57 units is just 1<sup>st</sup> phase – Existing Blumberg residents can apply for those.
- How are we picking the people? We will notify them when the units come on line – everything is based on dates and time of application. Residents who live at Blumberg have the first opportunity to apply.
- Greater Brewerytown CDC announced that they have a 25 station computer lab for the community to use -30th & Master Street

### 2. When are folks going to be relocated?

- Erik Solivan, PHA – Nobody is moving in December. Sometime next year we're going to start having meetings about relocation. Lots of community meetings around that.
  - 1) PHA has to get approval from HUD (10 mos.-1 year) for relocation
  - 2) Plan for Demolition
  - 3) Move everyone out

### 3. Section 8 waiting list, how are you addressing that?

- If you are currently on the waiting list, you can take the voucher – it will continue to operate normally until we get approvals. (Uniform Relocation Act – Federal requirements).

### 4. How are you determining who gets to move out first?

- Everyone will be notified at the same time. The additional notice will be for those who want to waive their rights to stay longer – then if they want to get help, we'll meet with them and discuss options.

### 5. Thoughts about redevelopment of Blumberg?

- "I can't wait for them to go down" resident
- "Other PHA developments all around the city have been redeveloped it's our turn" resident

### 6. # of Handicap units?

- PHA- Ken Granderson - 5%, but there are also hearing and vision impaired (3%). New plan calls for visitability (all of the units must be this way.)

### 7. Thoughts on Blumberg Senior tower rehab?

- "Blumberg Senior Tower – PHA is being very vague about what they're going to do to improve buildings. It seems like there is lost security. It feels like some of those amenities are being removed. You say you are going to improve in the future but right now it feels like you are taking things away." Senior Tower resident
- We already had one Senior focused meeting, but it seems like we need to have more meetings with the seniors to address their specific concerns
- "The senior tower should be demolished too how come we are not getting more renovations?"

### 8. What are your thoughts on Redevelopment on Ridge Avenue and mixed use opportunities?

- "They need a new super market for people. Remove the corner markets, stop-n-go's; better trash pick-ups; more activities/places for kids at daycares to go to." Resident

**9. What are your thoughts on Community Gardens?**

- We (Greater Brewerytown CDC) are maintaining the garden in front of the school. How will the existing gardens be integrated into the plan?
- We need to single out where that will go in the plan. We still need to work out where they will go/how to work it in.
- “We are getting a lot of push back from City about keeping lots as gardens (green space. Residents who have tried to purchase lots have been opposed by the city. You have to come together to work on this project. B--ching about it doesn’t make a difference – do something!” Resident
- Everything (meeting notes, presentations, plans, maps, pictures) is available on our website <http://www.sharswoodblumberg.com/>

**10. Infill housing strategy. Where does it make sense for that to go? What are the stronger parts of the neighborhood?**

- Ask that blocks that are mostly intact stay that way.
- Add infill to blocks where there is more homeownership and residents are taking care of their homes.

**11. There is an opportunity for doing more senior housing. The neighborhood can support more. Where should it go? On Ridge close to grocery and public transportation?**

**12. Opportunities for other types of development?**

- Intergenerational recreation. Adult daycare (demographics and space is here). Intergenerational use of space.
- Reuse of vacant land that provides jobs- for example a shredding company, how hard would it be to create one in the neighborhood, the pulp can be reused for gardens it would be sustainable and provide jobs for the residents

**13. At the end of the day, we have limited funding so we want to know about services, so we want to know about your priorities. What are the top 2 things that we need to focus on?**

- More recreation for children (youth focus).
- Address blight - PHS landcare. Maintain vacant lots and keep them clean;

**14. How are you going to empower the people? Not just about the cosmetics but sustaining families.**

- Supportive Services Roundtable on October 9<sup>th</sup> will address how we get folks skills and help them move up. Help them get those jobs as a result of development.
- There are economic development opportunities – we are going to tackle those issues.

**15. Other issues/concerns:**

- We need to have a class/instruction about how to keep things clean and take care of....Housekeeping classes! Or else it will be torn down again; people who live here are just tearing it up. Home Economics classes – for young families – educate them on how to take care of their home – have the education available. Also need to ensure that children are monitored.
- Part of the re-occupancy regulation is looking at their current living and will have an orientation that lays down ground rules before they fill out an application.

**16. Who is this redevelopment effort for? Is PHA pushing for gentrification?**

- There will be 1:1 replacement of the Blumberg units which will ensure that affordability is maintained in the neighborhood. Additional services will help support quality of life for existing families.

**17. How are meetings communicated to residents and the public?**

- Website, emails, calls, flyers at all Blumberg residences, Community leaders one-on-one interaction

**18. What % of the grant funds is going to local community and residents?**

**19. Vacancy –There are over 1,290 vacant lots in the neighborhood, 24 football field**

- Does PHA own all the vacant land? How much of this land is in public ownership?
- As shown at previous meetings and maps that re available on the website, PHA does not own all the vacant buildings or vacant lots.

**WRAP UP**

Remember there is an important meeting coming up on October 9<sup>th</sup> at Girard!

Then...on November 9<sup>th</sup> we're going to be presenting the Housing Plan and show you what redevelopment would look like in the community

Make sure to sign-in with your contact information