



**ITALIAN VILLAGE REINVESTMENT AREA REPORT & ACTION PLAN**  
Summer - Fall 1995

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## **ITALIAN VILLAGE REINVESTMENT AREA**

During the Summer and early Fall of 1995, individuals living, working, and owning property in the northeastern portion of Italian Village, met to discuss and plan ways to improve their neighborhood. Over 55 individuals participated in a series of four planning workshops and scores of smaller task force sessions. Working together, they envisioned the future of their neighborhood, identified area strengths and problems, devised potential solutions, and set priorities.

This report documents the community reinvestment planning activities that took place in Italian Village—beginning with the first town meeting held in June, through the fourth and final meeting held in September. Through their work, participants in Italian Village have charted their own course, as one of six older city neighborhoods participating in a pilot neighborhood improvement program.

Italian Village is located east of High Street, immediately north of the city's downtown. The neighborhood is part of the Short North District, which runs along both sides of High Street from Goodale Street, north to Eleventh Avenue. The Short North is a vibrant and eclectic arts, shopping, and restaurant district, famous for its "Gallery Hops."

The Italian Village Community Reinvestment Area is located in the northwest portion of Italian Village. It is roughly bounded on the north by East Fifth Avenue, on the south by Second Avenue, on the west by High Street, and on the east by Fourth Street.

In order to obtain a more detailed demographic picture, census data had to be collected for an area larger than the actual reinvestment area boundaries. And although the geographic area does not exactly conform to the Italian Village Commission boundaries either, it does provide useful information (see map on page three).

According to the 1990 U.S. Census, the reinvestment area comprises slightly more than 61 acres and has approximately 479 housing units. The total population reported for this portion of Italian Village is 972 persons, with approximately 71.4% of the total population white and 26% African-American. Further, basic demographic information shows that about 68% of the population is at least eighteen years of age or older, with approximately one-third or 32% of the population under 17 years of age.

The average household income reported in the Italian Village demographic area is \$18,308, slightly more than half the city-wide average of \$31,860. The poverty rate is estimated at 39.8%, much higher than both the central city rate of 29.1% and the city-wide rate of 17.2%.

In the Italian Village demographic area, approximately 53% of the 1,573 housing units were built by 1939. Of the total number of housing units, 13.7% are owner occupied and 67.9% are rental units; this differs substantially from the city-wide averages of 43% owner occupied and 49% renter occupied.

Italian Village is one of eighteen historic districts in the city of Columbus overseen by an architectural review commission. In order to protect and preserve the historic nature of the neighborhood, all exterior alterations, demolitions, and new construction, must be reviewed and approved by The Italian Village Commission; a body established by City of Columbus Codes.

As one of Columbus' first suburbs, Italian Village is rich in vernacular, and some high style 19th Century residential architecture. In particular, Italianate and Victorian style single family homes, doubles, and row houses of both brick and frame construction, can be found here.

Like many older city neighborhoods, Italian Village went through a period of decline. Retail stores and residences were unable to compete with the newer suburbs and shopping centers that catered to an increasingly auto-oriented society.

In the early 1980s, the southern portion of Italian Village began a period of renaissance, spurred on by many factors that converged at just the right time: the availability of low-interest city loans; financially attractive federal tax credits targeted to historic properties; quality housing stock; renewed public interest in older, historic neighborhoods; proximity to the downtown and The Ohio State University; and the steady growth of truly unique, and artistic commercial establishments along High Street. Despite this resurgence, revitalization efforts have been much slower in reaching the north end of Italian Village.

A dedicated core of residents, friends, and neighbors have joined together to develop and support activities that will improve the Italian Village reinvestment area. Some are “seasoned” professionals, well versed in the ways of city government and neighborhood advocacy, while others are just cutting their teeth. A lot has already been accomplished, as is evidenced by the quality of the Action Plans contained in this report. There is, however, much more to do. By continuing to work together, community members have a tremendous opportunity to firmly establish Italian Village as one of Columbus’ neighborhoods of choice.

## **COLUMBUS COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREAS**

1994 -1996

Announced in the Fall of 1993, the Community Reinvestment Program signaled a new approach to community reinvestment efforts in Columbus. It started as a pilot program with six of Columbus's central city neighborhoods. Initiated by the Department of Trade and Development, the program is different from earlier revitalization efforts. Instead of focusing on single issues, problems, or programs, the city has forged partnerships with neighborhood residents and stakeholders to develop long-range plans that communicate each neighborhood's goals and priority activities for getting things done.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT: THE HOLISTIC APPROACH**

The Community Reinvestment Program is one of the city's responses to recommendations made by a Low-Income Neighborhood Advisory Panel of The Urban Land Institute (ULI). In March 1992, the ULI Panel visited Columbus to examine our local situation and offer recommendations to improve the delivery of housing and neighborhood revitalization.

Sponsored by the local ULI Chapter and various business and development interests, the Panel examined background information, toured three study neighborhoods, and interviewed over 100 representatives of Columbus neighborhoods, financial institutions, development organizations and city government. The Panel concluded its public inquiry with a presentation of its findings. These recommendations included a statement on the need to clarify public policies addressing affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization.

The Panel also advised that neighborhood revitalization activities be based on comprehensive, holistic, neighborhood plans. The plans should include a definition of neighborhood boundaries that work, thus enabling resources to be concentrated in an area small enough to make an impact, yet large enough to be significant. Overall two things were stressed: to meaningfully have an effect, revitalization efforts must provide for resident and stakeholder participation at every step of the process, and be able to build upon an area's strengths and successes.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING**

Rather than trying to "fit" neighborhoods into particular city programs, the reinvestment plans, goals, and implementation strategies will be tailored to reflect each area's priorities and community vision. This reflects a "bottom-up," rather than "top-down," approach to neighborhood revitalization.

As mentioned earlier, area residents and stakeholders will direct city activities in their neighborhoods and be responsible for negotiating agreed upon community goals and action strategies. It is likely that new ideas will emerge during the planning process; if they are to become a reality, new partnerships will need to be forged. The city will make a three year commitment of staff and resources to each of the community reinvestment areas. However, successful revitalization efforts will need a variety of planning and implementing partnerships involving the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, and most importantly, area residents.

### **REINVESTMENT AREAS AND NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION POLICY**

In response to the ULI challenge to clarify the city's affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization policies, Mayor Gregory S. Lashutka convened the Housing and Neighborhood Development Committee (HNDC) in March 1993. Comprised of city officials, neighborhood leaders, community service providers, and representatives of the development community, this group drafted policies and strategies reflective of all housing and neighborhood interests. The policies serve as the city's statement on the delivery of housing assistance and the revitalization of Columbus neighborhoods.

Additionally, the HNDC developed reinvestment area selection criteria. The criteria contain several broad themes, as follows: residential and stakeholder involvement, community based

planning, holistic programs, small areas to maximize impact, and signs of decay and distress. The committee also advised that the city give priority consideration to areas that have a history and a culture—that were once vital, and are now demonstrating the desire to regain their earlier vitality.

The six reinvestment areas were selected using this criteria. Most of the reinvestment areas are smaller sub-neighborhoods of existing community planning areas. They are referred to here as South of Main, Hilltop I & II, Greater Linden, Southwood, and Italian Village.

Each of the reinvestment areas have at least one “solid” border to build from. In some instances, the border is an interstate highway or industrial location that separates the neighborhood from other areas of decay and distress. In others, a stable neighborhood serves as the base from which to address revitalization activities. Other common strengths include active development organizations, other development activity underway that the program can build upon, strong resident participation and organization, affordable housing stock, and committed local institutions.

Planning and implementation activities began simultaneously in the 1994 designated reinvestment areas of South of Main and Hilltop. Hilltop I & II were combined for planning purposes and some implementation activities will be staged to occur in 1994, while other activities will take place in 1996. The annual designations correlate with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) yearly funding cycles.

Planning activities will precede the expenditure of CDBG funds set aside for reinvestment activities. Upon completion of the Hilltop and South of Main planning efforts, the remaining reinvestment areas will be phased in one at a time, as each preceding area completes a six month planning process.

The Department of Trade and Development’s Planning Division will lead the planning phase. The Neighborhood Development Division will use the plans created to coordinate a three year implementation phase in each of the reinvestment areas. It is believed that this new approach to neighborhood reinvestment, holistic in nature and defined at the neighborhood level, will yield positive results for Columbus’ older-city neighborhoods.

## **HISTORY OF ITALIAN VILLAGE**

Italian Village, one of Columbus' first true suburbs, is located on the near north side of Columbus. It is a neighborhood of unique and diverse individuals, as evidenced by the many different people who make the neighborhood their home.

Italian Village was historically known as the North End, a designation shared with its western neighbor, present day Victorian Village. The historical development of the area can be attributed to a number of influences, including evolutions in transportation, as well as the industrial, residential, and commercial growth of Columbus.

### **TRANSPORTATION INFLUENCES**

Transportation systems played a vital role in the development of Columbus and its neighborhoods. High Street, the city's major thoroughfare, was initially conceived in 1812. Its development and construction ten years later, provided the stimulus for the North End's growth.

When Columbus was incorporated in 1834, very few people resided in the city's North End. The construction of High Street, otherwise known as the Columbus-Worthington Turnpike, provided access to the vacant lands north of the downtown area.

By the 1850's, a substantial amount of roadway and railroad construction had begun in the North End. During this time, High Street was improved from a dirt to a plank road, and the railroad system soon replaced the canals as the major means of freight and passenger transport. A number of railway lines were soon constructed and Union Station was built at the present day site of the Columbus Convention Center. The arrival of railroad development had a profound effect on the character and nature of undeveloped rural land in the area.

In 1863, the first street car service began along High Street. The cars were pulled by two horses and as noted in the Italian Village Guidelines, the horses were stabled south of Russell Street. In that same year, double tracks were extended from Union Station, north along High Street to serve Capital University, which was once located at Goodale Park. By 1891, the first electric street car appeared in the North End. The neighborhood was also served by street cars operating on Mount Pleasant, High, North Fourth, and Summit streets.

In the years following the Civil War, the need for significant roadway improvements became necessary. In 1876, High Street was improved to a concrete roadway from Nationwide Boulevard, three and one half miles north to the city's corporate limits. During the mid-1870's, a tunnel was constructed beneath High Street to bypass the large number of railway lines converging at Union Station. As many as a dozen rail lines created a network of tracks and switches that impeded traffic and confused city engineers well into the 1880's.

By the end of the 19th century, the bridges and viaducts over the rail lines in the vicinity of Union Station were completed, allowing the extension of North Fourth Street south to the city's downtown. By 1899, most of the existing street system and historic buildings in the area were in place, including an extensive alley system developed to service the horse stables located behind neighborhood residences.

With the advent of the automobile age, the need for improved transportation routes through the North End resulted in further road expansions. Growing traffic demand led to a significant architectural event that occurred in the early part of the 20th century. Between 1915-1923 the facades were removed from the 19th century commercial buildings located along both sides of High Street. This was done to widen the street and to better accommodate automobile traffic. In addition to increasing traffic flow, the widening resulted in the restoration of 19th century commercial buildings, with newer 20th century facades. Once aware of this engineering phenomenon, even the casual observer walking along High Street in the Short North, can see the different brick and masonry materials used.

The construction of High Street and the railways located along the eastern edge of Italian Village provided the city's transportation "spine." Further roadway improvements allowed better access to the area, resulting in a building boom in the early 1890's.

### **INDUSTRIAL INFLUENCES**

Fueled by the railroad industry and the Civil War, industrial development increased substantially in the North End throughout the late 19th century.

The railroad industry remained dominant in the area, well into the 1900's. It was instrumental in influencing where industrial, commercial and retail establishments located. A location close to railway lines made it easier to ship and receive goods, resulting in lower transportation costs.

There were a number of industrial establishments that flourished in the North End in the late 19th century. The majority of these industries engaged in manufacturing, producing a wide range of products and services. Some of the items manufactured included bricks and construction materials, metal works, foundry castings, mining equipment, horse carriages and buggies, and lumber products. These industries employed large numbers of local workers and contributed significantly to the economic and social development of Italian Village.

According to the Italian Village Guidelines, at the turn of the century the Jeffrey Manufacturing Company employed 800 workers, making it the area's largest employer. Jeffrey Manufacturing was a leading producer of mining equipment well into the 1970's, when it was purchased by the Dresser Company. Still in business today, changes in technology and the general decline of the mining industry have forced Dresser to substantially downsize their production and workforce.

### **RESIDENTIAL INFLUENCES**

In 1862, the city further stimulated the North End's development by expanding its northern boundary. Annexed into the city was the area roughly bounded on the north by Fifth Avenue, on the south by Union Station, on the east by the railroad tracks, and on the west, by what was then, a partially completed Dennison Avenue.

Irish immigrants were among the first ethnic groups known to reside in the North End. The Irish community steadily increased in numbers through the 1860's, as did their social, political and economic influence. The Irish were primarily concentrated in the southern portion of the North End near Nationwide Boulevard - known at that time as "Irish Broadway." They also located near St. Patrick's Church, as well as near the industries in the vicinity of Union Station where many were employed. As the Irish became more affluent, they moved out of the village to newer suburbs. To this day, however, a number of residents of Irish descent remain in the area.

The following decade witnessed the slow but steady growth of the North End, and in 1874, the Second Avenue Elementary School was constructed.

A large number of Italians began moving into the neighborhood during the late part of the 19th century. They worked in the stone quarries, construction trades, on the railroads and at local businesses located along High Street.

During the first part of the 20th century there was another residential building boom. Elite homes were constructed along Lincoln Avenue, with row houses and modest dwellings built close to High Street. Area apartments attracted lower income residents who relied on streetcars for transportation. During this time, the area was primarily a middle class neighborhood.

Another ethnic group to reside in the area were African-Americans, who had concentrated in the northeast sections of downtown along East Long Street. They later moved to Italian Village to work in the railroad machine shops and iron works. A small enclave settled in the northern portion of Italian Village in 1882 and established the Bethany Baptist Colored Church in that same year.

By the close of the century, the North End was a collection of small neighborhoods establishing their own identity.

### **COMMERCIAL INFLUENCES**

As previously mentioned, the 1880's saw High Street develop into a thriving arterial corridor providing commercial and retail service to adjacent neighborhoods. A number of retail establishments began to take shape in the North End to support residential expansion. In 1876, the North End Market House was completed, and although the original market structure was destroyed by fire, the site remains in use today as the North Market.

By 1900, development of the viaducts, along with electric trolley service, provided improved access to commercial and retail establishments. High Street flourished.

Even during the depression era, the North End remained stable. With continued city expansion, however, neighborhood residents and businesses migrated northward ushering in a period of decline. By the 1950's, the commercial corridor along High Street began to show signs of deterioration. The decreased purchasing power of new, lower income residents, as well as stiff competition from regional drive-in centers, hastened disinvestment.

### **20TH CENTURY CHALLENGES**

The post World War II era saw many economically disadvantaged families move into the area. Increased use of the automobile allowed our society to become more mobile and many original residents relocated to the newer suburbs. With this change in economic status, many larger single family homes in Italian Village were converted into multiple family dwellings. The number of rental properties and absentee landlords increased.

By the 1960's, the physical condition of the Italian Village area continued to deteriorate. The character of the area was changing and long range plans by the city called for extensive conservation efforts to prevent further decline. Despite this, the commercial vitality of High Street continued to decrease, and many stable community elements and institutions were either closed or demolished.

In the 1970's, residents of Italian Village began to take action against the deteriorating conditions in the area, and the threat of having more historic buildings demolished in the name of urban renewal.

Residents and property owners, who felt a sense of community and had visions of an improved neighborhood, formed the Italian Village Society in 1973. In the same year, the Italian Village Commission was established by Columbus City Council to preserve, protect and enhance the unique architectural and historical character of the area.

Completed in 1974 by community volunteers and Ohio State University students, the Italian Village Development Plan, reflected the character of the area, identified common problems, and proposed solutions for improvement. Surveys were conducted recording the architectural styles of neighborhood buildings, the physical condition of the area, and documenting zoning conditions. Proposals were then made requesting recreation facilities, preservation and rehabilitation of historic structures, improved traffic flow and the enforcement of city codes regulating building conditions.

In 1978, the southern portion of Italian Village was designated a "target area" by the city of Columbus, making federal community development funds available to support neighborhood improvement efforts. By the 1980's, city rehabilitation initiatives combined with the efforts of neighborhood organizations had begun to stabilize the area. Many middle class families were once again attracted back into the neighborhood.

According to a *Columbus Dispatch* article published in February 1987, the name “Italian Village” was bestowed upon the neighborhood in 1972. The article revealed that the name may have been derived from two neighborhood traits—one more colorful than the other.

The first account claims that the name was based on a parade held annually to celebrate the feast day of St. Anthony. On that day, a band would lead a procession of Italian celebrants. Starting in the Milo-Grogan area, they would march through the neighborhood to St. John the Baptist Church.

According to the second account, the name was derived from the many examples of Italianate architecture found in the neighborhood.

Italian Village is a vital older city neighborhood with a small town feel. The area is home to a wide range of citizens, diverse culturally, socially and economically. The unique architectural characteristics and historical nature of the village make it a neighborhood worthy of revitalization efforts.

#### **SOURCES**

“Italian Village: Guidelines for Rehabilitation and New Construction,” Columbus, Ohio: Italian Village Commission, August 1990.

“History Research Report for The Italian Village Commission,” Socrates Shinas, 1990.

“Italian Village Rehabilitation Guidelines,” Columbus, Ohio, Italian Village Area Commission, Gary Tallman, August 1983.

“Italian Village Tradition and Transition,” *Columbus Dispatch*, Bill Eichenberger, February 1987.

## **VISITS IN TIME**

### **1860's: THE WILLIAM SAY BREWERY**

Say Avenue between Fifth and Third avenues is named for William Say, whose residence still stands at the northwest corner of Say and Third avenues. He arrived in Columbus in 1843 with his brothers Charles, Joseph and James, and they operated several breweries in Columbus over the next thirty years. The Say brothers first owned a farm 9 miles west of Columbus on the National Road, part of which they sold off, at least from 1858, apparently to finance the breweries. The brothers' operated breweries at several locations, but by 1863 William Say's ale house stood about 75 yards behind his residence, using the fertile black soil between home and brewery to grow his own hop and grains. He manufactured Say's English Ale, but for both financial and social reasons, William shuttered the brewery. As his 1897 obituary reports, "when the anti-liquor crusade grew in force he decided to quit the business. This he did without being called upon by the crusaders, he tearing down his brewery of his own volition." In 1875 he and Jacob Sells subdivided the land behind his home into residential lots, connecting the new street with the existing Geary Street north of the property to create Say Avenue's peculiar right angle alignment. His good standing and finances thus restored, William Say helped found Third Avenue M.E. Church, and the Odd Fellows Lodge, both of which still stand on either side of Third Avenue at High Street. Dave Foster, Gambrinus brew master and local beer historian, corresponds with descendants of William Say, and has numerous historic documents associated with the family, although no beer bottles; blown in a wood mold, only two are known to exist. Dave sometimes comes back to the neighborhood to pick the English cascade hops still growing in the yards where the brewery once stood, living testimony to the neighborhood's good soil and former life as an English brewery.

### **1890's: MICHAEL CARROLL'S GROCERY**

For several generations beginning in 1886 the building at the southeast corner of Third Avenue and North Fourth Street served the neighborhood as the Michael Carroll Grocery. In its early years the site also included a wheelbarrow factory operated by the Carroll and Fagan families. The grocery (also called a saloon in early city directories) stood at the corner of Third Avenue and Lazelle Street prior to the extension of North Fourth Street from downtown, and served the growing neighborhood to the east, adjacent to the Clark Grave Vault, Jeffrey Mining and Berry Brothers Bolt Works. In 1891, Lazelle became Fourth Street, a major trolley line ran up the center, and the business prospered. Michael Carroll built a home adjacent to the grocery store for himself, his wife Elizabeth and their son Henry. In 1905, Michael expanded around the corner and opened a saloon. Unfortunately, he died at the beginning of 1906, the saloon shut down. his wife Elizabeth took over the grocery, running it with her family until her death 25 years later, when son Henry took over, continuing to operate the Michael Carroll Grocery until 1953. For several years the store survived as Reeves Market, then became Mickey's Bar & Grill. It's been vacant since Mickey's closed in 1978. In recent years, to address code violations, part of the upper story was removed. The residence and attached grocery sit empty and forlorn, showing little evidence of "the luck of the Irish."

### **1920's: THE GARDEN THEATER**

When the Garden opened for silent movies and vaudeville on Thanksgiving, 1920 High Street at Fifth Avenue was a happening place: clockwise from the northwest corner were the Fifth Avenue Savings Bank (now National City Bank), a post office in the Knights of Pythias Hall (now Buckeye Shell), Acker's Hardware and Miller's Rexall Drug Store (now Salem West). Babs Carfrey, a longtime Hilltop community activist, grew up in the neighborhood and had her first job at Miller's, vividly remembering the trauma of making her first phosphate at the soda fountain there. Other businesses in the block included three grocery stores (A&P, Kroger and Piggly Wiggly), the Windsor Restaurant, North High Savings & Loan, the Apollo Theater, a shoe repair, barber shop, auto parts store, furniture store and a "five and dime" called US Stores. The week the Garden opened, The Soul of Youth played, and Mayor Thomas spoke at the evening performance. The theater was remodeled in 1932 for "talkies" (using Garden projectors made in Columbus) and played as its opening attractions The Beast of the City starring Walter Hudson and Jean Harlow,

a Charley Chase comedy short, The Tobasco Kid, Aesops Fables cartoons and a news reel. The opening also featured performances by cellist Ferdinand Gardner's Trio, and organist Bill Dalton. There was even a "sunken garden" for an orchestra pit, surrounded by a boxwood hedge. In recent years, the Garden's shallow stage was used for burlesque. It closed in the 1980's but remains a tantalizing piece of "the garden district" of today.

### **1950's: THE HAIRE SIGN COMPANY**

The 1956 report by the City Planning Commission and the Slum Clearance and Rehabilitation Commission described the neighborhood around North Fourth Street as, "beyond salvaging due to the predominance of obsolete and worn out housing, mixed land uses, outmoded street patterns and inadequate sanitary facilities. The only solution for these areas is a program of clearing out blocks of dilapidated buildings and re-planning the cleared areas on modern concepts, selling the property to private enterprise to be developed according to the best public needs." One redeveloped property is the building now occupied by the Durable Slate Company at 1050 North Fourth Street. It was built for the Haire Sign Company in 1949, which moved there from another location just up the street. The brick and block building features unique ornamental blocks over the Fourth Street windows showing an artists easel pierced by twin lighting bolts, perhaps suggesting that the Haire company specialized in electric signs. After almost a quarter century at that location, Haire moved out to Harrisburg Pike, replaced by R.C. Frisby Electric, and later Gordon Keith Originals and Efficient Heating. Durable Slate purchased the building in recent years and operates its roofing business from the site.

### **THE WYANDOTTE BUILDING: AN ITALIAN VILLAGE CONNECTION**

The Wyandotte Building at 21 West Broad Street in Columbus is recognized as the city's first steel-framed skyscraper. Built from 1894 to 1897, it was designed by Daniel Hudson Burnham of Chicago. By the mid 1890's Burnham was recognized as one of America's foremost architects. As primary designer for the 1893 World's Colombian Exposition in Chicago, he gained instant fame. When news of the great architectural marvels of the exposition spread, Daniel Burnham & Company was sought after by major clients throughout the United States.

Columbus was no exception. Burnham was offered the commission for Columbus' new Union Station in 1893. As a result, he secured a commission to design the new Wyandotte Building. The design of the Wyandotte Building is a notable example of the "Chicago School" of skyscrapers of steel skeleton frame covered with masonry. The Wyandotte features typical "Chicago" style bay windows, designed to gain light in narrow, dark city canyons between buildings.

The contractor for the Wyandotte Building was Daniel W. McGrath, who resided at 1079 Summit Street beginning in 1889. McGrath had began as a brick mason and expanded his contracting business into other fields. While undertaking construction of the Wyandotte Building in 1894, McGrath began using a picture of the building in his advertisements in the annual City Directories, a practice he continued for many years. Evidently McGrath's contracting business was prosperous, since he built a fine residence for himself at 1575 Neil Avenue in 1905. That same year he also became President of the Columbus Contractor's Supply Company, later renamed the Dow Brick Company. McGrath is also known to have been the builder of Sullivant Hall on North High Street, formerly the home of the Ohio Historical Society.

### **AFRICAN-AMERICAN RESIDENTS**

Italian Village is most commonly associated with the immigrant ethnic groups that converged to work in the surrounding industries and factories. Less well known is the contribution African-Americans played in the neighborhood's development. One example of the cultural legacy of African Americans in the neighborhood is the Bethany Baptist Church.

The church began as a small Mission Sunday School on East Fifth Avenue, east of the railroad tracks. The church was organized in January 1891 under the leadership of Rev. R.C. Minor of Lynchburg, Virginia. There were eight charter members in the first enrollment of the church.

Rev. Minor "boarded" at 936 North Fourth Street until 1895, when he bought a house at 982 North Sixth Street (house has since been demolished). City directories show that most of the original congregation lived on Parker Avenue, which was parallel to and east of Grant Avenue, next to the Conrail tracks. Their occupations were listed as laborer or teamster. Parker Avenue and all of these houses are now gone and in their place is the Columbus Coated Fabrics plant.

The congregation moved to the corner of East Fourth Avenue and North Sixth Street in 1895. The church was a frame structure at the rear of the property. In 1905 Rev. William Z. Thomas, of Anderson, Indiana accepted the call to pastor the church. Under his pastorate the project of a new church building was carried to completion. A brick structure was built at the corner of East Fourth Avenue and North Sixth Street in 1906, replacing the frame building. This building is still standing today.

Rev. John Wesley Carter became the next pastor in 1914. Under his administration, the work of the Missionary Society was extended to include a Teenage Guild and Sunshine Band. A Vacation Bible School was organized and the church mortgage was burned.

The present pastor, Rev. A. Wilson Wood began at Bethany in 1960. Under his leadership, a new church was purchased at 959 Bulen Avenue, and the church moved in 1967. Today, the old church in Italian Village is once again being used as a church, for the Mount Sinai Holy Temple.

Many African-Americans settled and purchased homes in the surrounding area adjacent to the church.

#### **GODMAN GUILD'S ROLE IN ITALIAN VILLAGE: A BRIEF HISTORY**

In the 1950's and 1960's, the Guild supported an effort to organize the entire northside area into sections. Those sections would then send representatives to the Near Northside Neighborhood Council. The section east of High Street and south of Fifth Avenue was called the Second Avenue Section.

That group was organized and functioned for several years, evolving eventually into the Italian Village Society and Commission. In the mid to late 1970's the Guild employed an organizer. Gil Ricketts, specifically to help the society strengthen its organization and develop. Early society stalwarts Charles Smith and later Sherrill Massey would serve on the Guild's board of trustees.

This history is a good example of the role the Godman Guild works to play in the northside. Since its founding in Flytown in 1898, the Guild's mission has been to improve the quality of life and conditions of living in the near northside.

*Visits in Time, compliments of:*  
Andy Klein, neighborhood resident  
Roger Farrell, Italian Village Commission  
Randy Morrison, Godman Guild

## **GETTING STARTED IN ITALIAN VILLAGE**

The planning program for the community reinvestment areas has been designed to encourage resident and stakeholder participation in decision making that affects their neighborhoods. Community members are encouraged to take a good look at their neighborhood and then develop activities that will bring about desired changes. It is a goal of the Community Reinvestment Program to build confidence the citizens can make happen, what they've planned to have happen.

To get things started in Italian Village, "pre-planning" meetings were held with local leaders and residents, including members of civic groups, the local business association, social service providers, the schools and churches. The meetings were held to take care of the basics, such as where and when to hold planning meetings, what kinds of information should be available early on, and how best to get community members informed and involved.

A small working committee was established to develop a survey used in gathering resident's perceptions about a variety of topics, including: length of residency, the desirability of the reinvestment area/Italian Village, as compared to other neighborhoods, as well as safety, and recreation. The survey was conducted door to door, with a minimum of five surveys completed per street. Additional surveys were taken during a monthly Community Day luncheon at the Third Avenue Community Church. Although far from scientific, the 54 survey respondents did provide useful insights into how the neighborhood is perceived. It also showed that the majority of the respondents who rent, have lived in the neighborhood a while—often five or more years. (The survey questions and a summary of what residents had to say can be found on pages 32 and 33.)

The next step in the process was to schedule a series of four planning town meetings. The meetings, which took place Saturday mornings, were held at the Second Avenue Elementary School. Residents were recruited to assist city staff with distributing informational flyers door-to-door throughout the reinvestment area. Mayor Lashutka also provided a hand in getting the word out, sending letters of invitation and information flyers to reinvestment area business and property owners.

Each town meeting focused on a specific topic. At the first meeting, participants were asked to create a vision for their neighborhood. The second meeting focused on identifying neighborhood issues and assets.

Meeting three provided an opportunity to define the issues and assets previously identified and begin developing "Action Plans." Citizen task forces were also formed. The task forces became responsible for meeting with experts in their topic area, and using the information shared to develop specific objectives and activities. At the fourth and last meeting, task force reports were made and participants voted to rank, in order of highest priority, the objectives and activities presented.

What follows is a summary of what happened at the planning town meetings in Italian Village.

### **TOWN MEETING 1: CREATING A VISION**

The first meeting took place on Saturday, June 3, 1995, at the Second Avenue Elementary School. Participants received an overview of the Community Reinvestment Program and the planning process at hand. Following this discussion, participants began working on a vision statement for their neighborhood. The vision statement will be used to guide decisions made during both the planning and implementation phases of the reinvestment program.

As a first step, participants were asked to describe the characteristics of their ideal "neighborhood." Upon recording everyone's responses, the rest of the meeting was spent organizing the information. Four common themes or characteristics surfaced, as follows: safety; community spirit and pride; adult and youth services; and neighborhood beautification.

A task force was created to draft a vision statement for group consideration at the next town meeting. During a pizza lunch donated by Donatos, everyone had a chance to look at over thirty designs made by third, fourth, and fifth grade students from Second Avenue Elementary School.

The designs were all entered into a contest to develop a logo representative of reinvestment activities in Italian Village. Meeting participants cast votes and selected the winning, heart shaped drawing created by Anthony Wooden, of Miss Taylor's fifth grade class. As a prize, Anthony and his entire class were treated to a pizza party, compliments of Donatos.

## **TOWN MEETING 2: ISSUES AND ASSETS**

The second town meeting attracted over 25 participants and was held on Saturday, June 17th. A draft vision statement was presented and after some discussion and a few minor changes, the statement was adopted by the group. The next item on the agenda dealt with identifying neighborhood issues and assets.

To facilitate this activity, the workshop was organized into a series of small discussion groups. City staff served as group facilitators, making sure that everyone had a chance to share their ideas and have them recorded. Discussion centered around two questions, as follows:

1. What do you like about your neighborhood and want to keep?
2. What don't you like about your neighborhood and want to change?

Everyone answered the questions in two separate discussion rounds; at the end of each round, the responses were reported back to the full group. By the time they finished, a picture had begun to emerge showing the relative pros and cons of living in this section of Italian Village.

Noted among the strengths of the neighborhood were, its affordability, historic character, diverse building stock, and the mixture of arts, homes, restaurants, shops, and services. They also liked the "walkability" of the area, its small town feel, the brick streets and curbs, neighborhood institutions such as Second Avenue Elementary School and Third Avenue Community Church. Youth-centered art programs, the diversity of the neighborhood, and its future potential., also topped the list.

A need for some things to change was recognized as well. Among the things that people didn't like were poorly maintained and vacant buildings, criminal activity, too few resident homeowners, and littering. General traffic issues also caused some concern due to cars traveling too fast through neighborhood streets and alleys, cut-through truck traffic, and the Summit Street and Fourth Street one-way pairs were noted as well. Other problems cited involved refuse collection and bulk pick up, and the need for safe, supervised play areas for neighborhood children.

The meeting concluded with community members casting "dot" votes to indicate what they believed to be the most important issues facing their neighborhood. Two task forces were then formed: a Summary Task Force and a History Task Force. The summary group served as the town meeting "memory" summarizing the morning's work and the results of the issue vote. The History Task Force was charged with exploring and reporting on the neighborhood's recent and past history.

## **TOWN MEETING 3: PROBLEM DEFINITION AND IDENTIFYING RESOURCES:**

The second town meeting was held on Saturday, July 15th at the Second Avenue Elementary School. Participants produced a detailed definition of the problems previously identified, so that potential solutions could be developed. Attention was also given to the range of expertise and resources available to help the group reach feasible and realistic solutions.

It was a remarkable meeting. Remarkable for the heat: by mid-morning it was well over ninety degrees in the school, and even hotter outside. Remarkable for the twenty-one people who came, with all but two staying until the end. And, remarkable for the amount of work accomplished.

The meeting started with a brief review of the reinvestment program and planning process. This was followed by a report from the History Task Force, given by Andy Klein. Andy shared the progress the group was making in locating information and old photographs depicting the development of Italian Village in general, and the reinvestment area in particular.

The Summary Task Force report was made by Roger Farrell. Roger provided an overview on how the task force organized the issues identified at the previous meeting into six categories. The categories were used to form discussion groups as follows: Safety; Property Redevelopment; Traffic Management and Circulation; Neighborhood Improvement; Services and Recreation; and Community Spirit and Pride.

Following a short break, community members selected discussion groups to participate in based on their own interests. Individuals were encouraged to join as many different groups as they liked. By the end of the meeting, the walls were lined with easel paper, showing each group's progress.

The morning concluded with a well deserved lunch and yet another opportunity to sign up for task force work. The task forces roughly mirrored the discussion groups, with some consolidation. The task forces took the information from the third town meeting, and used it to begin developing action plans.

#### **WORKSHOP 4: PRIORITIES FOR ACTION**

The fourth and last planning town meeting was held to identify the neighborhood's priority objectives and activities. The priorities established will guide the implementation phase of the Community Reinvestment Program. In other words, what the community hopes to accomplish over the next three years.

The meeting took place on Saturday, September 16th, at the Second Avenue Elementary School. Approximately 25 people came to hear the task force reports and consider the recommendations. Spirited discussions took place as those present sought to understand, clarify and in some cases amend the recommended activities. In short order, the report and discussion phase of the town meeting concluded. Following which, participants once again cast "dot votes" to indicate their priorities—and then sat down to lunch.

## **PLANS FOR ACTION**

### **PROPERTY REDEVELOPMENT**

- **Goal:**

Increase home ownership and require existing property owners to rehabilitate and maintain their property as a means of improving the physical condition of the community.

**Objective one:**

Systematically enforce city health, zoning, and building codes in the Italian Village Community Reinvestment Area, and return vacant/ boarded structures to productive community uses.

√ Activity one: **The Code Enforcement Officer will issue appropriate paint-up/fix-up orders on a systematic basis, to all property owners in the Italian Village Community Reinvestment Area currently in violation of city codes. Code enforcement will investigate and closely monitor vacant/boarded structures for compliance with city codes.**

Activity Leader: **Columbus Development Regulations Division.**

√ Activity two: **Hire a part-time code enforcement officer to work in conjunction with existing code enforcement officials in Italian Village. During the course of the three year implementation phase, this individual would be available to work a flexible schedule (evenings, weekends, etc.). The code enforcement officials salary will be paid using Italian Village's Community Reinvestment Area funds.**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee and Columbus Development Regulations Division.**

- Form a community task force to work directly with code enforcement. Code enforcement will advise task force members on the status of properties currently in enforcement.

Activity Leader: **Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee and Columbus Development Regulations Division.**

√ Activity three: **Task Force representatives and/or neighborhood representatives will be available, as needed, to assist code enforcement with cases referred to Environmental Court. In certain cases, criminal charges will have a negligible effect. For these cases, the city will inform the community and request neighborhood participation in civil cases initiated by the city against owners.**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, Columbus Neighborhood Development Division, Columbus Land Banking Program, and Local Community Development Corporations.**

√ Activity four: **Negotiate purchase offers with owners of vacant/boarded structures using a specified amount of the Community Development Block Grant money earmarked for Italian Village. The negotiating party may be the Columbus Neighborhood Development Division or a local community development corporation working in cooperation with the Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee. A priority will be given to developing these properties for resident homeownership. The properties acquired will be sold, with incentives applied as necessary, to prospective owner occupants with a demonstrated ability to rehabilitate the property for occupancy or build compatible infill housing.**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee and Columbus Development Regulations Division.**

√ Activity five: **The task force will assist the city in communicating reinvestment area goals and plans to property owners.**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee and Columbus Development Regulations Division.**

**Measures of success:**

- One additional code enforcement officer is working part-time in the Italian Village Community Reinvestment Area.
- The Columbus City Codes are being systematically enforced in a timely manner in the Italian Village Community Reinvestment Area.
- A community task force is in place to work directly with code enforcement officials.
- Community members with relevant information are available to assist code enforcement with Environmental Court cases.
- Italian Village CRA property owners aware of reinvestment area goals and plans.
- Vacant/boarded structures have been identified and letters of inquiry have been sent to property owners.

**Objective two:**

Improve the physical conditions of the community by encouraging property owners to rehabilitate and maintain the exterior condition of their property (owner occupied single family, and owner occupied two, three, and four family units).

√ Activity one: **Initiate an envelope or exterior rehabilitation program, using a combination of conventional, low-interest, and deferred loans and grants, as follows:**

- A. Rehabilitation Loans: Determine eligibility, rehabilitation needs, and financial ability and direct the applicant homeowner to the most appropriate loan program-
- Conventional Bank Loan;
  - Low-interest Loan (households up to 80% of median income); and
  - Deferred Loan (households up to 50% of median income, very low income, and/or elders on fixed incomes).
- B. Rehabilitation Grants:
- Focusing on very low income homeowners, and to “buy-down” rehabilitation costs when needed improvements exceed property values;
  - Determine maximum grant amounts (can be combined with deferred rehabilitation loans)
  - All grant recipients will be asked to share their expertise by assisting and participating in a neighborhood event or project. For example, elders could participate in a living history project where they share their memories with neighborhood youth.
- C. Effectively communicate information about the types of rehabilitation assistance available to area homeowners.

Activity Leader: **Financial Lenders and Columbus Neighborhood Development Division.**

√ Activity two: **Develop a program (collective, consortium) able to assist home owners with basic, low cost home maintenance. Approach local community**

**development corporations and/or vocational schools for assistance and seek to use a “local” work force.**

**Activity Leader: Local Community Development Corporations, Job Training and Vocational Programs, and Neighborhood Residents.**

√ Activity three: **Establish a regular, well-publicized time and day for the Mobile Tool Unit to be in the neighborhood; supplement the “Tool Unit” visits with a rehab-repair demonstration on a monthly/bi-monthly basis.**

**Activity Leader: Columbus Neighborhood Development Division, Individuals with rehabilitation and home repair expertise, Local Community Development Corporations, and Corporate/Business Sponsor(s).**

√ Activity four: **Investigate the feasibility establishing a tax abatement program that would freeze city taxes to “pre-rehabilitation” amounts for a specific period of time.**

**Activity Leader: City of Columbus Finance Department.**

√ Activity five: **Create and institute on an ongoing basis, a volunteer home rehabilitation program for seniors, (similar to the Christmas in April program). Seek corporate sponsorship of the program.**

**Activity Leader: Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, Columbus Neighborhood Development Division, Local Community Development Corporations, and Local Service Providers.**

**Measures of success:**

- Number of units rehabilitated and maintained to city code standards;
- Number of regularly scheduled Mobile Tool Unit stops in the neighborhood and number of tools borrowed;
- A program is developed and in place to assist area homeowners with basic, low-cost home maintenance; and
- Map use of Mobile tool and loan program use in the neighborhood to show program activity.

**Objective three:**

Support the expansion of home ownership opportunities in the Italian Village Community Reinvestment Area.

√ Activity one: **Assist qualified area renters in becoming homeowners (credit counseling, rent-to-own program, information workshops, etc.).**

**Activity Leader: Local Community Development Corporations and Columbus Neighborhood Development Division.**

√ Activity two: **Secure properties for home ownership purchase, with the assistance of nonprofit development corporations or development of another organization able to help increase home ownership opportunities in the neighborhood.**

**Activity Leader: Columbus Neighborhood Development Division, Local Community Development Corporations, and Nonprofits.**

- Identify area renters interested and able to become homeowners. Examine the feasibility of promoting home ownership through the purchase of “Fee-Simple” Town homes (row houses); use as a tool to provide home ownership possibilities for neighborhood renters.

Activity Leader: **Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, Local Community Development Corporations, Financial Lenders, Columbus Neighborhood Development Division, and Neighborhood Renters.**

- Develop a marketing strategy to attract new homeowners.

Activity Leader: **Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, Area Realtors, and Financial Lenders.**

- Utilize the city’s Down Payment Assistance Program to assist first-time home buyers. Seek to develop additional incentives to encourage home ownership.

Activity Leader: **Columbus Neighborhood Development Division.**

√ Activity three: **Develop a self-help home ownership demonstration project. Work with area nonprofit organizations and Community Development Corporations to develop a sweat-equity project.**

Activity Leader: **Habitat for Humanity, Neighborhood CDCs, Italian Village Implementation Committee, and Columbus Neighborhood Development Division.**

**Measures of success:**

- Properties are available for homeownership purchase.
- Area renters interested in purchasing a home in the neighborhood have been identified and informed of programs that can assist with the move to home ownership.
- A neighborhood marketing strategy is in place.

**Objective four:**

Improve communication and relations between the Italian Village Architectural Review Commission and area property owners and residents.

√ Activity one: **Establish a neighborhood improvement revolving loan fund able to assist property owners with a demonstrated financial need, in making architecturally appropriate home repairs.**

Activity Leader: **Columbus Neighborhood Development Division, Columbus Historic Preservation Office, Italian Village Commission, and the Columbus Landmarks Foundation**

- Monitor property transactions in Italian Village (through the newspaper) and send new owners a welcome letter, a copy of the Italian Village Guidelines, and a one year membership to the Italian Village Society.

Activity Leader: **Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, Italian Village Society, and Italian Village Commission.**

- Investigate the feasibility of removing the Italian Village Reinvestment Area from architectural review oversight. (This activity was added at the request of a participant at the 9-16-95 town meeting.)

Activity Leader:

√ Activity two: **Recruit neighborhood “greeters” to personally welcome new property owners to the neighborhood.**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village Residents and Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee.**

√ Activity three: **Emphasize and promote the positive aspects of architectural review and the ways that it benefits the neighborhood.**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village Commission, Columbus Historic Preservation Office, Italian Village Society Newsletter, and the Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee.**

**Measures of success:**

- A revolving loan fund is in place to assist with architecturally appropriate repairs.
- New property owners in Italian Village are receiving a welcome letter, copies of the Italian Village Architectural guidelines, and a complimentary one year membership to the Italian Village Society.
- Positive aspects of architectural review are being emphasized and promoted in the neighborhood.

**Objective five:**

Improve the physical conditions of the community by encouraging property owners to rehabilitate and maintain the exterior condition of their property (non-owner occupied multi-family).

√ Activity one: **The city will provide grants to investment property owners for lead paint abatement in all multi-family rental units.**

Activity Leader: **Columbus Neighborhood Development Division.**

√ Activity two: **Investigate the feasibility establishing a tax abatement program that would freeze city taxes to “pre-rehabilitation” amounts for a specified period of time.**

Activity Leader: **Columbus Finance Department.**

√ Activity three: **Work with the owners of Section 8 multi-family units to determine the number of subsidized units in the neighborhood, and to inform them about the Community reinvestment Program and neighborhood goals. Contact CMHA regarding inspection procedures for apartments receiving “Section 8” subsidies.**

Activity Leader: **Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, Section 8 Property Owners and Managers, and the Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee.**

**Measures of success:**

- Number of Lead Abatement Grants applied for and projects completed;
- Establishment of a tax abatement program; and
- Communication and ongoing dialogue between the Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee and the owners/managers of Section 8 properties.

**Objective six:**

Improve rental housing management.

√ Activity one: **Develop a neighborhood “Landlord” or “Apartment” Owner Association. Work with the association to address tenant screening and**

**maintenance issues; use organization to facilitate improved working relations between investment owners and the Architectural Review Commission.**

Activity Leader: **Columbus Apartment Association and Neighborhood Landlords.**

√ Activity two: **Develop a neighborhood “Tenant Association.” Work with the association to facilitate greater renter involvement in neighborhood organizations and issues and use to make renters aware of their rights and responsibilities, as well as opportunities for home ownership.**

Activity Leader: **Neighborhood Renters, Local Community Development Corporations, and Godman Guild.**

**Measures of success:**

- Neighborhood “landlord” and tenant associations are in place.
- Rental housing management and tenant - landlord relationships are improved.

**SAFETY**

● **Goal:**

Italian Village is a safe neighborhood in both reality and perception where the following conditions exist:

- children can play outside;
- people can walk the streets;
- businesses are involved with the neighborhood and can operate safely;
- residences are safe from criminal intrusion; and
- there is reduced graffiti and vandalism.

**Objective one:**

Increase police presence in the neighborhood and improve communication between the police and community members.

√ Activity one: **Arrange for increased foot patrol and mountain bike activity through Police Patrol Commander; Seek to expand the University Area’s Citizen Crime Patrol Program into the Community Reinvestment Area; and Investigate hiring special duty Police Officers to supplement Police presence.**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, Columbus Police, and Community Crime Patrol.**

√ Activity two: **Establish at least one new neighborhood watch program in the next six months and two more within the next year.**

Activity Leader: **New VISTA volunteers with the Safety Task Force as an Advisory Council, and Police Community Education Officers.**

√ Activity three: **Establish an ongoing neighborhood Safety Task Force with balanced representation from residents, businesses, neighborhood organizations, Police, and other City entities with a stake in reducing crime. Have the task force monitor implementation of recommendations and update plans as conditions change. Develop recommendations for the allocation of Reinvestment Area funds to Safety action steps based on identified priorities and identify money leveraging possibilities.**

Activity Leader: **Present Reinvestment Area Safety Task Force with additional membership; coordinate with Italian Village Society; involve Columbus Police at every step.**

√ Activity four: **Conduct a series of Community/Police town meetings with innovative “gimmicks” to attract attendance. Use the town meetings to educate people about relevant issues and access questions as well as opportunities for dialogue. Get written material out on how to access police services, i.e. Narcotics, Vice, Patrol, Community Education, etc.**

Activity Leader: **Present Reinvestment Area Safety Task Force with additional membership; coordinate with Italian Village Society; involve Columbus Police at every step.**

**Measures of success:**

- Children can play outside.
- People can walk the streets.
- Businesses are involved with the neighborhood and can operate safely.
- Residences are safe from criminal intrusion as measured by Police crime statistics on Burglary, Breaking and Entering, residential vandalism, and other crimes against property.
- There is reduced graffiti and vandalism compared to 1995.

**Objective two:**

Address neighborhood safety problems associated with drug dealing and “Drug Hot Spots”, gang hangouts, street prostitution, vandalism, and domestic violence.

√ Activity one: **Develop an intervention plan with Columbus Police Narcotics, Vice, and Patrol Units to identify and eliminate “open air” drug dealing and prostitution at neighborhood “hot spots”, pull in Operation ACE, as needed. Develop neighborhood monitoring and reportage for “hot spots”. Conduct regular follow-up meetings with police to assess progress.**

Activity Leader: **New VISTA volunteers, Third Avenue Community Church, Police entities, Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, and Community Crime Patrol.**

√ Activity two: **Approach Juvenile Court about participating in a program whereby youth convicted of graffiti and other forms of vandalism are required to repair the damage that they have caused. Set up a revolving fund to purchase tools and supplies necessary to make repairs; generate initial capital for the fund through neighborhood fund raising projects with “catchy” themes and donations from businesses.**

Activity Leader: **David Sims-Court Administrator, Bob Marrah-Juvenile Court, Shortstop, Greater Columbus Arts Council, Americorps, “Artist in Residence” program, business association, Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, Columbus Police, Prevention Institute, Senior Center, and Second Avenue School. Lead agency recommendation to be developed by CRA Implementation Committee.**

√ Activity three: **Develop gang resistance education and intervention programs for middle and elementary school youth. Identify gang hangout spots and utilize foot patrols and citizen crime patrols to monitor. Clean up present hangout spots using neighborhood volunteers, especially around Post Office,**

**Mount Pleasant between 3rd and 4th avenues, and the alley between 4th and 5th avenues.**

Activity Leader: **Shortstop, Huckleberry House, Directions for Youth, VISTA volunteers, Columbus Police gang resistance education and training model and trainers, Community Crime Patrol, and a neighborhood volunteer network. Convene a meeting of key groups above to decide on a lead agency.**

√ Activity four: **Bring CHOICES into the neighborhood to establish a domestic violence intervention and prevention program and establish a Parents Anonymous chapter to assist parents of battered children. Coordinate efforts with Third Avenue Community Church, Shortstop Teen Center, and the Godman Guild.**

Activity Leader: **CHOICES, Third Avenue Community Church, Godman Guild, Parents Anonymous arrangements through Catholic Social Services, Columbus Police, and Municipal Court Probation Program for Domestic Violence offenders. Lead agency to be determined.**

**Measures of success:**

- Children can play outside.
- People can walk the streets.
- Businesses are involved with the neighborhood and can operate safely.
- Residences are safe from criminal intrusion as measured by Police crime statistics on Burglary, Breaking and Entering, residential vandalism, and other crimes against property.
- There is reduced graffiti and vandalism compared to 1995.
- Objective three:
- Utilize nontraditional methods to reduce conditions leading to crime, especially nuisance abatement and property acquisition through forfeiture.

√ Activity one: **Identify repeat offender “Crack Houses” and initiate civil court actions after notification of property owners, using Nuisance Abatement statutes to get padlock orders issued against properties sheltering the worst offenders. Advocate for financial penalties that will motivate owners to take responsible action. Seek to acquire tax delinquent properties that are also crime producing sites, through the city’s land banking program.**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, Safety Task Force, Columbus Police Narcotics, Columbus Development Regulations Division, Columbus Land Banking Program, Neighborhood Watch, and Environmental Court. Lead agency to be determined.**

**Measures of success:**

- Children can play outside.
- People can walk the streets.
- Businesses are involved with the neighborhood and can operate safely.
- Residences are safe from criminal intrusion as measured by Police crime statistics on Burglary, Breaking and Entering, residential vandalism, and other crimes against property.
- There is reduced graffiti and vandalism compared to 1995.

**Objective four:**

Create a safe atmosphere for businesses and shoppers in the Reinvestment Area.

√ Activity one: **Develop a Business Safety Plan and coordinate activities with the adjacent residential areas. Support the development and implementation of the safety plan by setting aside Italian Village CRA dollars to add two new VISTA volunteer positions to the community. The VISTAs would be used to support and staff the business and residential safety planning and implementation process and to assist with forming neighborhood watch groups.**

Activity Leader: **Third Avenue Community Church, New VISTA volunteers, Business Association, Italian Village Society, Short North Business Association, Columbus Police, and Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee. Lead agency to be a partnership among key businesses and Safety Task Force.**

√ Activity two: **Approach a neighborhood based agency to start a street outreach program directed to drug addicts and alcoholics who are loitering in the neighborhood with assistance from one or more of the shelter houses nearby.**

Activity Leader: **House of Hope, Third Avenue Community Church, and Community Shelter Board. Lead agency to be determined.**

**Measures of success:**

- Children can play outside.
- People can walk the streets.
- Businesses are involved with the neighborhood and can operate safely.
- Residences are safe from criminal intrusion as measured by Police crime statistics on Burglary, Breaking and Entering, residential vandalism, and other crimes against property.
- There is reduced graffiti and vandalism compared to 1995.

**SOCIAL SERVICES AND RECREATION**

● **Goal:**

To enhance the quality of life for neighborhood residents by providing opportunities for social, recreational, educational, and cultural activities.

**Objective one:**

Better utilize and/or develop outdoor space for child and adult recreation and gardening.

√ Activity one: **Work with the Second Avenue School to design and implement physical improvements to the School's playground area. Involve neighborhood children enrolled at Second Avenue in improvement discussions. Use some of the CRA dollars dedicated to the neighborhood, to help pay for playground improvements, (especially when able to be used as matching funds to secure additional grant dollars or to support neighborhood artist collaborative projects).**

- Continue working with the school to identify physical improvements beyond the playground that will enhance the school grounds and the facility's role as an important community resource (garden areas, benches, etc.).

Activity Leader: **Second Avenue Elementary School, Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department (Thompson Recreation Center), Short North Artists and Arts Organizations, and The Columbus Foundation.**

√ Activity two: **Start a supervised program of play/activity times at the Second Avenue School playground. The program would be seasonal and focus on offering neighborhood children the opportunity to participate in structured or unstructured,**

**games and play. CRA dollars may be needed to purchase play equipment (balls, games, etc.) and to hire an adult and a teen assistant to provide supervision and plan activities. However, efforts will be made to support the program through utilizing existing programs (Private Industry Council, Franklin County Jobs Program), neighborhood involvement and donations of play equipment.**

**Activity Leader: Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, Short Stop Teen Center, The Private Industry Council, Franklin County Jobs Program, OSU, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, Second Avenue Elementary School, The Columbus Foundation, and the United Way.**

√ **Activity three: Survey the neighborhood for potential garden or planting sites. Start with developing a neighborhood garden on the city-owned vacant lot on Fourth Avenue.**

**Activity Leader: Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, Columbus Land Banking Program, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, Columbus Public Service Department, Martha Walker Garden Club, and Christ Church Anglican.**

√ **Activity four: Locate a possible play field for baseball and soccer use.**

**Activity Leader: Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, Columbus Land Banking Program, and Columbus Recreation and Parks Department.**

**Measures of success:**

- Adequate space and staffing is secured for accessible child and adult recreation and gardening.

**Objective two:**

Provide transportation to area youth to insure that they are not excluded from recreational, cultural, enrichment, employment, and educational opportunities because they don't have access to safe, reliable, and affordable transportation.

√ **Activity one: Obtain a sixteen passenger van - OR - regular access to a large passenger van. In addition to providing transportation to area youth, the van could be utilized by other community organizations. The following strategies have been discussed and need to be investigated further:**

A. Seek corporate support and/or a corporate sponsor willing to underwrite the cost of a van (purchase or lease);

B. Form a transportation consortium.

- Identify other community organizations with transportation needs and develop a "joint" transportation plan and proposal. Use CRA dollars, if necessary, to support grant proposals to local foundations and corporations.

C. Approach OSU about developing a pilot project where the University allows community use of their vans on an as needed basis.

**Activity Leader: Neighborhood Organizations, Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, OSU, Area Corporations, and the City of Columbus.**

√ **Activity two: Meet with COTA to discuss neighborhood transit problems and work on developing potential solutions.**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, COTA, and Neighborhood Organizations.**

**Measures of success:**

- Area youth are able to take advantage of recreational, cultural, enrichment, employment, and educational opportunities, requiring transportation assistance.

**Objective three:**

Establish an adequate facility for community programs and activities (art, cooking, crafts, carpentry, etc.)

√ Activity one: **Investigate the possibility of securing a building or site suitable for development into a community resource center/new home for the Short Stop Teen Center.**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee and the Short Stop Teen Center.**

√ Activity two: **Develop and support collaborative community programs and activities, using for example, the Thompson Recreation Center, the Short Stop Teen Center, and the Third Avenue Community Church.**

Activity Leader: **Thompson Recreation Center, the Short Stop Teen Center, Third Avenue Community Church, the Godman Guild, and the Italian Village Neighborhood Coordinator.**

**Measures of success:**

- A building or site suitable for the Short Stop/Neighborhood Resource Center has been identified and secured.
- Collaborative community programs and activities are being held in the neighborhood.

**Objective four:**

Focus on opportunities to create positive interaction between young people and older adults.

√ Activity one: **Honor long-term residents by having neighborhood teens interview them. Work with youth to teach them community interviewing skills and to develop this into a video history project.**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village long-term Residents, Short-Stop Teen Center, Neighborhood Senior Residences, Thompson Recreation Center, ACTV, GTC-3, Third Avenue Community Church, and OSU Graduate Students in Folklore Studies.**

√ Activity two: **Develop a neighborhood grandparent and youth performance piece to play at the Third Avenue Performance Space (Third Avenue Community Church).**

Activity Leader: **Second and Summit Senior Center, Short Stop Teen Center, Grandparents Living Theater, Columbus Jr. Theater, Neighborhood Youth and Grandparents, Third Avenue Community Church, and Senior Citizen Residents.**

√ Activity three: **Develop “reciprocal” volunteer programs recruiting older volunteers for youth-focused programs, and vice versa.**

Activity Leader: **First-link, Area Senior and Youth Programs, and Second Avenue Elementary School.**

√ Activity four: **Hire a neighborhood resources coordinator (volunteers, jobs, recreation, arts, cultural enrichment, and grant opportunities).**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, Franklin County Jobs Program, and Short North Business Association.**

**Measures of success:**

- Completion of tangible results, such as:
- Volunteer program is up and running smoothly,
- Neighborhood Coordinator is hired
- Interviews for the video history project have been completed
- Ongoing sources of support for employment, recreation, arts, cultural, and enrichment, opportunities are under development and/or in place.

**Objective five:**

Encourage youth activities that promote civic and financial responsibility.

√ Activity one: **Establish a youth-oriented neighborhood improvement grant program. The goal is to provide neighborhood youth with the access to funds that will empower them to develop and carry out projects that will provide a benefit to their neighborhood. The program will also help teach financial responsibility, encourage creativity, and develop the ability of youths to create, evaluate, and complete projects beneficial to their neighborhood. It is proposed that start-up funding come from the CRA dollars; once the program has established itself, other funding sources will be sought.**

Activity Leader: **Neighborhood Youth, Short Stop Teen Center, Godman Guild, Bank One-Victorian Gate, National City Bank-5th Avenue, Short North Business Association, Columbus Neighborhood Design Assistance Center, Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, Columbus Foundation, and the Italian Village Commission.**

**Measures of success:**

- Youth developed neighborhood projects are either completed or underway in the Italian Village Community Reinvestment Area.

**Objective six:**

Get information out to inform people of the services and opportunities available to them.

√ Activity one: **The Neighborhood Resources Coordinator will provide information and articles about upcoming events and opportunities to the Italian Village Newsletter, Second Avenue School Newsletter, and the Short Stop Newsletter and events calendar.**

Activity Leader: **The Italian Village Newsletter/Society, Short Stop Teen Center, Second Avenue Elementary School, The Neighborhood Coordinator, Short North Business Association, Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, and the Third Avenue Community Church.**

√ Activity two: **Utilize Third Avenue Community Church as a Neighborhood Resource Center, with the church receiving neighborhood support.**

Activity Leader: **Third Avenue Community Church, Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, and Neighborhood Organizations and Service Providers.**

√ Activity three: Develop a Neighborhood Resources calendar or booklet.

Activity Leader: **The Italian Village Neighborhood Resources Coordinator, Neighborhood Organizations and businesses, Short North Business Association, and Short Stop Teen Center.**

**Measures of success:**

- Residents are better informed and able to utilize neighborhood services and opportunities.

## **COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND PRIDE**

- **Goal:**

Increase community spirit and pride.

**Objective one:**

Hold neighborhood activities and develop projects that enhance our sense of community, strengthen ties between neighborhood residents, promote the positive aspects of Italian Village, are fun, and provide a community benefit.

√ Activity one: **Develop a neighborhood-wide garden tour; coordinate the tour with the Columbus Recreation and Parks Division. (This activity was added at the request of a participant at the 9-16-95 town meeting.)**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee and Italian Village Society.**

√ Activity two: **Develop a neighborhood walking tour emphasizing locations of cultural, architectural, and social highlights in the neighborhood.**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village Society, Italian Village Commission, Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, and Neighborhood Residents and Property Owners.**

- Survey the reinvestment area to determine if there are more locations suitable for outdoor murals. Talk to property owners and determine if Italian Village CRA funds should be used to support a mural project(s).

Activity Leader: **Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, Area Property Owners, and Italian Village Commission.**

- Survey the neighborhood to determine potential locations for decorative plantings, and “gateway” treatments (plantings and/or signs located at major entrances into the reinvestment area). Coordinate this activity with the Short North Business Association, Italian Village Society, and Italian Village Commission.

Activity Leader: **Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, Short North Business Association, Italian Village Society, and Italian Village Commission.**

√ Activity three: **Develop an annual Italian Village “IV-k” run/walk. Seek the support of the Short North area businesses and corporate sponsorship.**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, Short North Business Association, and Italian Village Society.**

√ Activity four: **Work with the Italian Village Society to increase membership and neighborhood representation and participation in civic matters important to the whole neighborhood.**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village Society, Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, and Neighborhood Residents.**

√ Activity five: **Hold a neighborhood-wide event in October in conjunction with the Italian Village Society. The event will use, in part, a grant from the United Way and will be held at the Italian Village Park at Hubbard and Kerr.**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village Society, Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, and Neighborhood Residents.**

**Measures of success:**

- Successful completion of a neighborhood-wide “event.”
- A neighborhood walking tour has been developed.
- Survey completed for potential mural locations and property owners contacted.
- Survey completed for potential garden spots and gateways.
- Feasibility of an Italian Village “IV-k” race/walk determined.
- Increased membership, representation, and participation in the Italian Village Society

**TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION**

● **Goal:**

Facilitate and encourage the safe and efficient movement of residents, workers and visitors within the Italian Village CRA neighborhood.

**Objective one:**

Develop a neighborhood traffic pattern to discourage speeding and “cut-through” vehicular traffic through neighborhood streets and alleys, focusing on Mount Pleasant, Third and Fourth avenues.

√ Activity one: **Undertake a study to reroute neighborhood streets and alleys by instituting one-way routing, to eliminate “cut-through” and illicit vehicular traffic. Solicit neighborhood input for implementation of these design alternatives.**

Activity Leader: **Columbus Division of Traffic Engineering and Parking, Columbus Neighborhood Design Assistance Center, Italian Village Residents, Italian Village Society, Urban Infrastructure Recovery Program, and Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee.**

√ Activity two: Undertake a study to identify possible solutions to reduce speeding through the neighborhood utilizing traffic calming devices. Solicit neighborhood input to implement these design alternatives.

Activity Leader: **Columbus Division of Traffic Engineering and Parking, Columbus Neighborhood Design Assistance Center, Italian Village Residents, Italian Village Society, Urban Infrastructure Recovery Program, and Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee.**

**Measures of success:**

- Residents of the Italian Village reinvestment area are satisfied that the recommended traffic calming and rerouting techniques conveniently and economically reduce speeding, “cut-through”, and illicit vehicular traffic.

**Objective two:**

Develop a design strategy to improve the physical condition and determine the future use of Summit and North Fourth streets.

√ Activity one: **Undertake a study to identify and determine the best use of Summit and North Fourth streets for the development of a safe and cohesive neighborhood. (i.e., maintain one-way traffic or return them to two-way traffic.) Based on the findings of this study, develop a set of design alternatives that would return a neighborhood character to these arterials (i.e., reduce the speed and the scale of these streets by reducing traffic flow to 3 lanes, create neck downs and allow parking on one side of the street only). Solicit neighborhood input to implement these design alternatives.**

Activity Leaders: **Columbus Division of Traffic Engineering and Parking, Columbus Division of Engineering and Construction, Campus Partners, Columbus Neighborhood Design Assistance Center, Italian Village Residents, Italian Village Society, Urban Infrastructure Recovery Program, and Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee.**

**Measures of success:**

- The residents of Italian Village are satisfied that the design alternatives and traffic calming techniques used along the Summit and North Fourth streets have restored their neighborhood character.

**Objective three:**

Institute traffic calming techniques to curtail and mitigate the amount of “cut-through” truck traffic entering the neighborhood.

√ Activity one: **Intermittently monitor truck traffic on residential streets and ticket violators.**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village Residents and Columbus Police.**

√ Activity two: **Undertake a study of the residential street system to determine feasible ways of eliminating “cut-through” truck traffic.**

Activity Leader: **Columbus Division of Traffic Engineering and Parking, Urban Infrastructure Recovery Program, and Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee.**

**Measures of success:**

- When the residents of Italian Village are satisfied that there has been a considerable reduction in the amount of “cut-through” truck traffic in their neighborhood.

**NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS**

• **Goal:**

To improve the physical appearance of the Italian Village CRA neighborhood.

**Objective one:**

To decrease inappropriate and illegal dumping and increase city services regarding bulk trash pick-up.

√ Activity one: **Better enforcement of litter laws.**

Activity Leader: **Columbus Health Department.**

√ Activity two: **Schedule a weekly pick-up of bulk items.**

Activity Leader: **Columbus Refuse Division and Columbus Neighborhood Development Division.**

√ Activity three: **Move toward two scheduled weekly trash pick-ups.**

Activity Leader: **Columbus Refuse Division and Columbus Neighborhood Development Division.**

√ Activity four: **Create an “Adopt-An-Alley” program.**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village Residents, Italian Village Society, Columbus Clean Community, Columbus Refuse Division, and Columbus Neighborhood Development Division.**

√ Activity five: **Organize a neighborhood clean-up.**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village Residents, Italian Village Society, Columbus Clean Community, Columbus Refuse Division, and Rumpke Collection Services**

√ Activity six: **Create a program requiring individuals convicted of illegal dumping and littering to return to the neighborhood where the offense occurred, and clean the alleys.**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village Residents, Italian Village Society, Columbus Clean Community, Columbus Refuse Division, Columbus Neighborhood Development Division, and the office of Franklin County Environmental Court.**

√ Activity seven: **Create a program to help educate residents in the neighborhood on the proper methods to dispose of bulk items, trash and yard waste.**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village Residents, Italian Village Society, Columbus Clean Community, Columbus Refuse Division, and Columbus Neighborhood Development Division.**

**Measures of success:**

- Residents of Italian Village are satisfied that the alleys in the neighborhood are free of trash, bulk items and yard waste.

**Objective two:**

Commission artists to create designs that enhance the physical environment of the neighborhood.

√ Activity one: **Develop a program, whereby all physical improvements to the neighborhood, including capital improvements, are reviewed for potential “artist collaboration” opportunities. Consideration should be given to soliciting proposals**

from Short North resident or studio-based artists, as well as from individuals participating in the “artists in schools” program.

Activity Leader: **Italian Village Residents, Italian Village Society, Columbus Neighborhood Development Division, Columbus Neighborhood Design Assistance Center, and Local Artist(s).**

**Measures of success:**

- When artist collaborations with the Italian Village CRA have created public art projects that enhance the outdoor physical environment of the neighborhood.

**Objective three:**

Bring the street lighting system up to an acceptable level so that residents feel safer walking through their neighborhood.

√ Activity one: **Create a Community Steering Committee to identify key street lighting projects in the neighborhood.**

A. Conduct a night and day survey of the street lights in the neighborhood to determine what lights are not working properly.

B. Verify or add street lighting so that all through street intersections in the neighborhood are adequately illuminated.

C. Augment the existing lighting system to create appropriate lighting levels for safety.

Activity Leader: **Columbus Division of Electricity, Italian Village Residents, Italian Village Society, Urban Infrastructure Recovery Program, and Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee.**

√ Activity two: **Provide mid-block lighting as follows: Fourth Avenue; Say Avenue between Fourth and Fifth Avenues; Third Avenue between Summit and Fourth streets; Hamlet Street between Second & Fourth avenues; as well as the alleys cross streets.**

Activity Leader: **Columbus Division of Electricity, Urban Infrastructure Recovery Program, and Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee.**

**Measures of success:**

- When residents are satisfied that their neighborhood is illuminated to an acceptable standard that enhances their feelings of safety.

**Objective four:**

Use street trees to beautify the Italian Village CRA neighborhood.

√ Activity one: **Create a street tree master plan for the neighborhood.**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village Residents, Italian Village Society, Columbus Division of Recreation and Parks, Columbus Neighborhood Design Assistance Center, and The Ohio State University Department of Landscape Architecture.**

√ Activity two: **Combine a street tree planting program with an envelope or exterior rehabilitation program.**

Activity Leader: **Financial Lenders and the Columbus Neighborhood Development Division.**

√ Activity three: **Develop a program for planting street trees along Summit and North Fourth streets.**

Activity Leader: **Columbus Division of Recreation and Parks, Columbus Division of Engineering and Construction, Urban Infrastructure Recovery Program, and Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee.**

**Measures of success:**

- When residents are satisfied that all of the streets in their neighborhood capable of tree plantings, are lined with street trees.

**Objective five:**

Eliminate hazardous and unsightly street & alley conditions (i.e. potholes, dips, bumps, and displaced brick) and maintain brick streets and alleys.

√ Activity one: **Prioritize brick streets and alleys for rehabilitation, maintaining their historic character.**

Activity Leader: **Columbus Division of Engineering and Construction, Urban Infrastructure Recovery Program, and Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee.**

√ Activity two: **Create a Community Steering Committee and develop guidelines for the rehabilitation and hazard abatement of neighborhood streets and alleys. Utilize the Division of Engineering and Construction database for the analysis of road and alley conditions.**

Activity Leader: **Italian Village Commission, Italian Village Residents, Columbus Division of Engineering and Construction, Urban Infrastructure Recovery Program, and Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee.**

√ Activity three: **Establish an “Adopt-An-Alley” Program by which neighborhood residents perform routine maintenance of alleys (i.e., cutting grass, trimming trees, etc.) Coordinate with “Mobile Tool Unit” for seasonal maintenance.**

Activity Leader: **Columbus Division of Engineering and Construction, Columbus Refuse Division, Italian Village Residents, and Columbus Neighborhood Development Division.**

**Measures of success:**

- Residents of Italian Village are satisfied that their streets and alleys are being maintained at an acceptable level.

**Objective six:**

Work to eliminate hazardous, broken and missing sidewalks and curbs in the neighborhood.

√ Activity one: **Utilize completed field surveys and the Division of Engineering and Construction database to identify areas of curb replacement/rehabilitation.**

Activity Leaders: **Columbus Division of Engineering and Construction, Urban Infrastructure Recovery Program, and Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee.**

√ Activity two: **Develop guidelines for the design and prioritization of curb replacement/rehabilitation. Use Italian Village Commission guidelines where**

**applicable. Work with the Division of Engineering and Construction and the Italian Village Commission to develop a cheaper alternative to the historic sandstone curb material that will create a similar aesthetic.**

Activity Leaders: **Division of Engineering and Construction, Urban Infrastructure Recovery Program, Italian Village CRA Implementation Committee, Italian Village Residents, and the Italian Village Commission.**

√ Activity three: **Enforce sidewalk repair by property owners.**

Activity Leaders: **Columbus Division of Regulations.**

√ Activity four: **Combine a sidewalk replacement program with an envelope or exterior rehabilitation program.**

Activity Leader: **Financial Lenders and Columbus Neighborhood Development Division.**

√ Activity five: **Create a program that acquires replaced or discarded paving brick in good condition from other areas of the city for the replacement or repair of neighborhood sidewalks. Maintain brick sidewalks and encourage the replacement of concrete sidewalks with brick sidewalks. (Prioritize sidewalks along brick streets and alleys).**

Activity Leader: **Columbus Division of Engineering and Construction, Italian Village Commission, and Columbus Neighborhood Development Division.**

**Measures of success:**

- When residents of the Italian Village CRA are satisfied that their curbs and sidewalks are brought up to an acceptable standard.

**Objective seven:**

Install bicycle racks at various locations in the neighborhood.

√ Activity one: **Investigate the possibility of installing bicycle racks at designated locations around the neighborhood.**

Activity Leader: **Columbus Division of Traffic Engineering and Parking, Columbus Division of Engineering and Construction, Italian Village Residents, Italian Village Commission, and Columbus Neighborhood Development Division.**

**Measures of success:**

- Bicycle racks are placed in the neighborhood, are a benefit to the community, and are being used for the purposes intended.

## **SURVEY RESULTS**

We want to know what you think! Over the next nine months, you and your neighbors in the northern portion of Italian Village will be working together to set goals and identify important issues and projects, that will help make this neighborhood a better place. Please take a few minutes to answer the questions below.

We surveyed the Italian Village area and got 54 responses. Here are the things that you've said...

1. How long have you lived in this neighborhood?

Do you rent? or own?

*2 months — 55 years*

*59% rent, 41% own*

2. Why do you live here?

*Affordability*

*Convenience. Close to work, shops, CBD.*

*Familiarity.*

*Raised in this neighborhood and like it.*

*Neighbors and friends.*

3. What makes this neighborhood a more desirable place to live than other neighborhoods nearby? (different from other neighborhoods nearby?)

*Affordability.*

*Like the area and the people.*

*Integrated low-income neighborhood community.*

*Like the urban feel, diversity and aesthetics.*

*Dense population with wide range of wealth and poverty.*

*Beautiful old houses with a diverse commercial strip.*

4. What is your age range? (circle one)

between

*0-20, 0%*

*21-36, 36%*

*36-50, 24%*

*51-65, 13%*

*66-80, 20%*

*or 80+, 7%.*

5. What is the highest level of education you have attained?

*grade school, 22%*

*high school or equivalent (GED), 67%*

*some college, 4%*

*college degree, 7%*

*other, 0%*

6. What feels like the center of the neighborhood?

- *Second Avenue School*
- *Third Avenue Church*
- *Goodale Park*
- *Thompson Recreation Center*
- *Godman Guild*
- *Third Avenue Community Center*

7. What brings people in the neighborhood together?

- *Churches (Community Day)*
- *Do-Dah Parade*
- *Community Festival*
- *Godman Guild*
- *Friends and neighbors*
- *Civic group meetings*
- *Small block parties*

8. Please show on the attached map where you feel most safe. Please mark with an "S". Why?

- *Typically, the majority of respondents feel safest closest to home.*
- *Areas around schools and churches.*
- *High Street and most of Third Avenue.*

9. Are there safe places for children to go in an emergency? Where?

*Yes, 37%*

*No, 63%*

- *Doctors North (hospital)*
- *Thompson Recreation Center*
- *Godman Guild and Huckleberry House*
- *Northside Development Center*
- *Schools (Second Avenue Elementary, Montessori)*
- *Friends and neighbors*
- *OSU*

10. Please show on the attached map where you do not feel safe. Please mark with an "X" .

- *Areas marked:*
- *North of Fifth Avenue*
- *Fourth Avenue, near the post office.*
- *Parts of Summit and Fourth streets.*
- *In the vicinity of Detroit Avenue and Hamlet Street.*

Why?

- *beggars, prostitutes, drug dealers, etc.*

How can it become safer?

- *More police visibility in neighborhood.*
- *Better police response times.*
- *Stop the shootings, the drug dealers, and the prostitutes.*

11. When walking, what routes do you take to get around the neighborhood? Please show this on the map, use a solid line.

*27% of the respondents don't go out at night.*

12. Do you use the same routes at night as you do during the day?

*Yes, 37%*

*No, 36%*

13. What happens in the area between midnight and six a.m.?
- *Gangfights and gunshots*
  - *Prostitution*
  - *Loud music, noise, 3 a.m. bar activity.*
  - *Drug trafficking*
  - *Lots of traffic, speeding cars.*
  - *Loitering (homeless people and teenagers)*
  - *quiet (sleeping)*
14. What kind(s) of transportation do you use most often...
- walking, 17%*  
*car, 56%*  
*bus, 23%*  
*bicycle, 4%*  
*other, 0%*
15. Does living here make it harder or easier to get to work?
- harder, 4%*  
*easier, 96%*
16. Do you have access to a telephone?
- Yes, 91%*  
*No, 9%*
17. What is in the alleys?
- *Drug dealers.*
  - *Prostitution.*
  - *Abandoned bulk items. (iceboxes, stoves, furniture, etc.)*
  - *Garage mechanics and junk cars.*
18. Where can/do you go in the area to see birds... enjoy nature away from cars and noise?
- *Goodale Park*
  - *Second Avenue School and Godman Guild Park*
  - *Montessori School*
  - *Front porch, back and side yards*
  - *Weinland Park*
  - *Battelle Park*
  - *To other park areas.*
19. Is there any garden or park space near you? What grows in the neighborhood? (flowers, vegetables)?
- *Goodale Park*
  - *Italian Village Park*
  - *Martha Walker Park*
  - *Back and side yards*
20. Is there anything else you would like us to know?
- *High crime area*
  - *Drug dealings and prostitution*
  - *Need more police visibility*
  - *Code enforcement needs to crack down on yards, trash, house conditions.*
  - *Need more playground equipment for Second Avenue School playground.*
  - *Eyesore vacant house.*
  - *Not enough space in alleys to fit large trash cans.*

## **NEXT STEPS**

People working together toward a common goal is nothing new in Italian Village. The seeds of civic action have long ago been planted and the area enjoys a long history of coming together in times of adversity and celebration.

The reinvestment planning meetings have benefited from this civic spirit and the neighborhood's tenacity, as well as from the different perspectives that each individual brought to the process. This report and the objectives and activities outlined, serve to further emphasize that this is a community that believes in itself and its future. The next steps will be very important. It is a lot easier to rally around something when the results and sense of accomplishment happen quickly; it is much harder to maintain momentum and excitement for the "long haul" projects.

It is going to take hard work, creativity, and cooperation to lift the activities outlined in this report "off the pages" and into real results. To assist with this, the Department of Trade and Development, through its Neighborhood Development Division, has made a three year commitment to work with each of the reinvestment areas on implementation activities.

Now that Italian Village has identified what it wants to do and has established some priorities, Neighborhood Development will begin working with Italian Village to adapt existing programs, or to develop new programs as needed, in order to get the results desired.

The success of community reinvestment efforts in Italian Village will depend on the ongoing commitment of community members, local organizations, and the city. A steady and committed group of individuals have emerged, ready to work together to ensure that reinvestment activities benefit their neighborhood.

## **THANK YOU**

The success of the reinvestment workshops is directly attributable to the active participation of community members living and working in the Italian Village area. Many other individuals and organizations played a supporting role by helping to organize for the workshops, facilitating discussion groups, providing technical expertise, and distributing information.

### **Workshop and Task Force Participants**

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