
CHECKLIST & TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPLICANT: City of District Heights

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: City of District Heights

Please review the checklist of attachments and furnish all of the attachments that are applicable. Contents of the notebook should be tabbed and organized as follows:

- TAB #1 Applicant Information**

- TAB #2 Sustainable Community Baseline Information - In addition to hard copies of the project location map, a detailed listing of parcels (i.e. Parcel ID Numbers) that form the project boundary should be included. Maps should also be submitted in electronic GIS form (shape file). If you have additional comments or questions, please contact Brad Wolters, Senior GIS Specialist, DHCD, wolters@mdhousing.org.**

- TAB #3 Local Capacity to Implement Plans & Projects: Attach Sustainable Communities Workgroup roster noted in Section III**

- TAB #4 Sustainable Community Plan**

- TAB #5 Progress Measures**

- TAB #6 Local Support Resolution**

- TAB #7 Signed Sustainable Community Application Disclosure Authorization and Certification**

**All documents on this checklist are mandatory.
Failure to provide the requested document will automatically deny your application.**

I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY APPLICANT INFORMATION**Name of Sustainable Community:** City of District Heights

Legal Name of Applicant: City of District Heights

Federal Identification Number: 52-6003729

Street Address: 2000 Marbury Dr

City: District Heights **County:** Prince George's **State:** MD **Zip Code:** 22306

Phone No: 301-336-1402 **Fax:** 301-350-3660 **Web Address:** www.districtheights.org

Sustainable Community Contact For Application Status:**Name:** Samantha Archibald-Olatunji **Title:** Urban Planner

Address: 2000 Marbury Drive **City:** District Heights **State:** MD **Zip Code:** 20747

Phone No: 301-336-1402 x **Fax:** 301-350-3660 **E-mail:** archibalds@districtheights.org

Person to be contacted for Award notification:**Name:** Samantha Archibald-Olatunji **Title:** Urban Planner

Address: 2000 Marbury Drive **City:** District Heights **State:** MD **Zip Code:** 20747

Phone No: 301-336-1402 x **Fax:** 301-350-3660 **E-mail:** archibalds@districtheights.org

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

Through this section, applicants will demonstrate that trends and conditions in homeownership, property values, employment, commercial and residential vacancy, community facilities and infrastructure, natural resources, the local business and residential districts show a need for new or continued revitalization reinvestment. Demographic data and trends provided by Applicants should support the choice of the proposed Sustainable Community Area boundary and help form a basis for needs and opportunities to be addressed through the initiatives and projects described in the Sustainable Community Action Plan (Section IV).

POINTS IN THIS SECTION WILL BE AWARDED BASED ON THE SC AREA'S NEED FOR REINVESTMENT AS EVIDENCED BY THOROUGH DESCRIPTIONS OF CURRENT CONDITIONS OR TRENDS (and will not be based upon current or planned revitalization activities which will be covered in Section IV).

A. Proposed Sustainable Community Area (s):

County: Prince George's

Name of Sustainable Community: City of District Heights

Include boundary descriptions and a map of the Sustainable Community. In addition to hard copies of the of the project location map, a detailed listing of parcels (i.e. Parcel ID Numbers) that form the project boundary should be included. If possible, maps should also be submitted in electronic GIS form (shape file). If you have additional comments or questions, please contact Brad Wolters, Senior GIS Specialist, DHCD, Wolters@MdHousing.org

The City was incorporated in 1936 and is a 593 acre municipality. The entire boundary area of the City of District Heights is included in the Sustainable Community area boundary. The City of District Heights is located in the inner beltway of Prince George's County, Maryland, located near Maryland Route 4. District Heights is 9.85 miles away from central Washington, D.C, which makes it an ideal suburb community to D.C. According to the United States Census Bureau, the City has a total area of 0.93 square miles, all of it land. The City has a total population of 5,837, according to 2010 US Census, and a projected 2012 population of 5,949. Current population density is 6,276.3 per square mile. The City is bordered by the Walker Miller from the north, Forestville and Unincorporated District Heights on the Southeast, unincorporated District Heights and Suitland on the Southwest, and the Town of Capitol Heights on the Northwest border. According to 2010 Census, there were 2,212 housing units at an average density of 2,378.5 square mile. In 2012, the Census projected 2,170 housing units at an average density of 2,421.7 per square mile.

The City land use composition consists of 95% (single and medium density) residential and 5% commercial. The City's commercial district is located in the southwest corner of the City, along Marlboro Pike, and serves as the community's main business area and gateway to the City.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATIONApproximate number of acres within the SC Area: 576

Existing federal, state or local designations (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Legacy Area | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Designated Neighborhood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Main Street | <input type="checkbox"/> Maple Street |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Historic District | <input type="checkbox"/> National Register Historic District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A & E District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Enterprise Zone Special Taxing District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BRAC | <input type="checkbox"/> State Designated TOD |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other(s): <u>Prince George's County Historic Community</u> | |

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

Prior Revitalization Investments & Smart Growth:

(a) List and describe any significant State and local smart growth or revitalization related program investments (for instance, Community Legacy or SC Rehab Tax Credit) that have been invested in the Area since the launching of Maryland's Smart Growth initiative and programs in 1997 (including Housing investment). What impact have these investments made in the community? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Significant smart growth and revitalization investments can be seen in the City's commercial revitalization, housing rehabilitation, and infrastructure/open space programs and initiatives.

Local housing investments can be seen in the City's existing home improvement programs.

The City Beautiful Program is administered through the City of District Heights, and funded by the Prince George's County, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and Maryland's Community Legacy Program. The City secured \$125,000, Community Legacy Program; \$100,000, CDBG program; and \$10,000 from the Prince George's County Livable Communities Grant, over the past eight years, to support the program. The program offers homeowners who are low-to-moderate income; aged 50 and older; and/or disabled, an opportunity to beautify the exterior of their homes in order to upgrade their overall appearance, bring their properties up to City code, and adhere to Green Building standards; making quality homes more accessible. The City has assisted 17 disabled, elderly, and low income residents through the program and plan to assist an additional 25 residents in 2012 and 2013 with current funding.

The District Heights Energy Efficiency Program (DHEEP) is a community-wide effort that provides financial assistance for energy efficient home retrofits to homeowners of single family and detached townhomes, through two (2) different incentive options. The program has been funded by \$250,000 from the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG); \$12,000 of Community Legacy funds, and \$83,618 in Prince George's County's CDBG over the past six years. The City has been able to offer diverse financing options to a variety of income levels, and gives DHEEP the opportunity to make a greater community-wide environmental impact. The City has been able to help over 40 residents through DHEEP since 2009 (DHEEP originally started as "The Green Program"). The City is planning to help an additional 10 low-to-moderate income residents in 2012 through 2013.

Large investments have been made through the City's Commercial Revitalization Program, which comprise of implementing capital improvements and business development projects in the commercial district. The goal of the program is to make small and large physical improvements that will gradually improve the visual appearance of the commercial district; and in return, help build a stronger relationship with the business community. In 2009, the City completed a \$1.2 million commercial façade and infrastructure improvement project in the 6300 Block of Marlboro Pike. The project successfully leveraged funding from a variety of funding sources to include, federal, state, county grants and bond bill funds, as well as City in-kind contributions. The City has secured an additional \$500,000 to continue façade and infrastructure improvements in the commercial business district to be completed by Spring 2014.

Infrastructure improvements consist of streetscape improvements in the 6000 – 6200 Blocks of Marlboro Pike, which include the installation of native trees, shrubs, and flowers, along the right-of-way. A Street Banner program was also developed in 2012, in partnership with Prince George's Community College, Visual Arts Department. Vibrant banners now line the commercial business district.

Infrastructure/Open Space Improvements

The City completed a \$1.3 million Park Trail Project over 10 years ago by successfully leveraging five different funding sources. The trail provides a direct linkage to the City's commercial business district, bus routes, and the municipal center and its surrounding outdoor facilities, to include a \$1 million Ball-field renovation project in 2012.

Over the past 15 years, these major City investments have made a significant impact on the residents' quality of life and are helping to achieve the City's goal for a more Sustainable District Heights.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(b) Describe any existing barriers to Smart Growth that may affect your jurisdiction or the proposed SC Area. For instance, does your area have higher development fees than outer “cornfields”?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

One of the largest barriers to Smart Growth in the City is the lack of land for major development. The City is landlocked and most of its existing land inventory is developed; so the main opportunity for expansion is vertical. The City's Smart Growth Strategy to support future opportunities for major development consists of the redevelopment of the commercial business district (CBD), and the preservation of the City's existing housing stock and natural resources.

However, the lack of major development investment and interest from outside developers presents a threat to the City's economic future. No major development activity has occurred in the commercial business district or residential area over the past two decades.

The City's CBD is located in the southwest corner of the City, along Marlboro Pike, and serves as the community's main business area and gateway to the City. Strip mall shopping centers mainly comprise this area and only allow for quick stop and go purchases. A 2005 commercial market study revealed an excess demand in the categories of full service restaurants and food/beverage stores (M-NCPPC, 2005). The CBD is over saturated with service-oriented businesses such as beauty salons, hair supply, and small convenience stores. Multiple landlords usually own the stores within the shopping centers, and have presented to be a challenge in the City's revitalization and business development efforts. With no active business association it's difficult to engage property owners to have a quorum to discuss the City's revitalization goals. This challenge has been an impediment to getting property owners to invest in better business development and attraction practices. The inability to acquire multiple properties for redevelopment has also been an impediment to large-scale development investment. The shopping centers, on average, are adequately maintained, but lack a collective property maintenance effort on a larger corridor-scale. The lack of financial resources to support large-scale developments projects is also a barrier; despite the City's success in acquiring a variety of funds to support its community revitalization efforts. The issue of public safety or the perception thereof also presents a challenge to attract viable businesses and development interest.

The City was incorporated in 1936 and is a 593 acre municipality. Buildings in District Heights are primarily residential and range in age from 1925 circa 1965, with a few traditional style homes built in the 1980s. In the 1940s, District Heights was improved by several different developers. All of the companies constructed modest, affordable, single-family houses with Federal Housing Administration (FHA) financing and planned for federal employees and returned World War II veterans.

There is little room for new housing development, thus the need for the City to implement initiatives and programs that support housing preservation. The commercial area is the best area to create new housing in the City. Currently, there is approximately 12 acres of undeveloped land scattered throughout the commercial area and a few vacant and underutilized properties that can be assembled to create mixed-use developments that include a mix of housing, retail and office uses.

The City also lacks the financial assets to support the development of efficient street and green infrastructure, as well as storm water management best practices. There also is no Metrorail within a 1 mile of the City, so providing or researching solutions for alternatives modes of transportation is essential to altering the transportation choices of residents, and will help make the City more attractive for smart growth development investments.

The City is also committed to providing educational opportunities to educate residents about smart growth and sustainability, which will help garner citizen support and decrease public opposition and distrust on future development decisions of the City.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

B. Community Conditions: Strengths and Weaknesses

(1) Describe the strengths and weaknesses in the proposed Area's existing built environment. For example, what is the condition of housing? Are there underutilized historic buildings and cultural places? What is the condition and availability of community parks and recreational assets? Are there transportation assets? What is the current condition of community infrastructure such as roads and lighting? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The built environment in the Sustainable Community area poses as its immediate strength. In regards to housing, the City has a relatively stable residential community, with population fluctuating at around 100 people between 2007 and 2012. The City has a mature housing stock. The homes and apartment complex are generally well-kept, with the help of the City's code enforcement standards. Buildings in District Heights are primarily residential and range in age from 1925 circa 1965, with a few traditional style homes built in the 1980s. Typical houses include a mix of "California" bungalows, American Foursquare houses, Cape Cods, minimal traditional, ranch houses, and modest, moderate homes. The City's apartment complex received a historical designation as a "historic multi-family development" from M-NCCPC and the City became a Historical Community of Prince George's in 2010. The City recognizes the rich architecture of our building stock and strives to preserve the conditions of our buildings through our innovative home improvement programs.

The home foreclosure crises of 2010-2011 have left the City with the burden to maintain vacant properties. A homebuyer initiative is needed to attract new homebuyers to the community and aggressive outreach to get banks and vacant landlords to upkeep properties.

The lack of continuous sidewalks, lighting, and traffic calming measures also present a challenge to attracting both people and new businesses to the commercial business district. On the contrary, the property vacancies and underutilized commercial spaces in the CBD present positive opportunities for infill-development and creative place making. However, current business assets such as the original Gallo's Italian Food and Grocery, Lowery Medical Center, KayCee Drugs, Aldi's supermarket, and Spaulding branch library help stabilize the local business activity in the CBD. The City's local religious institutions also play integral role in the community.

The City of District Heights has no designated national historic building. The City, however, is home to the "Barack Obama" Recreation and Cultural Center (aka The Center) which is highly valued and utilized by the citizens of the community. The Center offer annual community events such as District Heights Day, which is very popular. The Center outdoor sport facilities, playgrounds, and walking trails that run throughout the City are utilized by residents. The condition of these outdoor recreation areas is good, but the center is in need of equipment upgrades, and renovation/expansion of recreation spaces within the center.

We see the redevelopment of the CBD and improving the current infrastructure as smart investments that will help attract developers and a diverse mix of people to include, working families and young professionals, to the community, and furthermore help to improve the property values and stabilize housing conditions. The Marlboro Pike corridor is a County Road, and will require a collaborative effort to improve the corridor's infrastructure.

The District Heights Community Garden Program (DHCGP) is also becoming a strong pillar for community engagement. DHCGP's annual community events such as the Earth Day Celebration and the upcoming Oktoberfest 2013 are becoming staple attractions.

The main transportation asset that the City itself has is its prime location in proximity to Marlboro Pike, Pennsylvania Avenue, and Washington D.C. WMATA's Metro bus and local circular bus also runs throughout the City. The City also has its own "Call-A-Bus," which provide scheduled and on-call service to senior and disabled residents. The park trail system in the City provides several pedestrian linkages to the municipal center, local schools and institutions, opens spaces, the commercial business district, and public transportation systems.

The residential streets are relatively well lit but could be better illuminated if the street trees are trimmed.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(2) Describe the Area's land use/zoning make-up (residential, commercial, industrial, and mixed-use). Is the current land use or zoning conducive to revitalization investment? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Within the District Heights boundary itself, R-55 zoning dominates. A small portion of District Heights in the northeast corner is zoned R-80. These zones are one-family detached residential. The northern border of District Heights is primarily zoned for townhomes (R-T) and multifamily medium density residential condominiums (R-18C). The District Heights Municipal center takes up somewhat of a large area too and is zoned rural residential.

The only commercially zoned area within District Height's border is mainly zoned for shopping centers (C-S-C) but there are commercial offices (C-O) as well. There is no mixed use along Marlboro Pike except for a zone along Marlboro Pike just west of District Heights, and this is only classified as mixed use transportation oriented (M-X-T) and consists of townhomes.

There are no residential land uses directly on Marlboro Pike within the incorporated boundaries of the City; however, future plans for the corridor call for a mixture of land uses. Most properties that line Marlboro Pike are commercial with neighborhoods generally situated away from Marlboro Pike. The residential community exists more as an isolated island, without much cohesion or interaction with businesses along the corridor.

MNCPPC Marlboro Pike Sector Plan and SMA call for the appropriate rezoning of commercially zoned properties, to include properties located in the seven priority redevelopment areas, and other properties not included in the priority areas. Seven priority areas are identified in the Marlboro Pike Sector Plan, include Priority Area 4: Silver Hill Cultural Triangle and Priority Area 5: Health and Wellness Center at Great Eastern Plaza. These areas were targeted to serve as catalyst locations, intended to spur redevelopment and new development that will enhance the revitalization of the corridor.

Zoning in priority area 4 calls for an amendment to the County's zoning ordinance, as necessary, to provide incentives and allow for infill development in the shopping center. The City should also pursue the designation of the Silver Hill Cultural Triangle as an arts and entertainment district with the State of Maryland. Changes to existing property usage would include the relocation of Great Eastern Plaza park-and-ride lot to the Silver Hill Shopping Center parking lot so that designated commuter parking is available for a new transit shuttle connecting the Marlboro Pike community with the closest Metro stations at Suitland and Addison Rd, and possibly Capitol Heights.

Priority area 5 includes Great Eastern Plaza, located near the center of Marlboro Pike Corridor and the District Heights Commercial area, offers opportunities, according to MNCPPC (2009) to rethink its longstanding role as a primary retail shopping center. The lack of health services located close to Marlboro Pike was an important issue that emerged from the series of public meetings and Charrettes conducted for the Marlboro Pike SMA plan (2009). As a result, M-NCPPC's proposed concept for the site is to redevelop into a Health and Wellness Center that include the extension of the existing retail structure to front along Marlboro Pike, a new retail stores that focus on health and wellness and include medical offices located on upper floors of the buildings. The existing sport center is closed and will have to be reevaluated for its future use, while the vast paved and underutilized parking area would be redesigned into an attractive pedestrian area. The plan also calls for senior housing on the undeveloped properties next to the shopping center. The site will be rezoned to M-X-T to accommodate a mixed use development. Recommended strategies to prepare this priority area for redevelopment include: collaborative partnerships and outreach to the property owners, health and wellness-specialized developers and businesses; related studies, and the effective utilization of development tax incentives and financing programs.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

3) Describe strengths and weaknesses in basic features of community quality-of-life. For instance, is crime an issue for this SC Area? What is the condition and quality of educational choices available to the community? Are artistic, cultural, or community resources, events or facilities within or accessible to residents in the proposed SC Area? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

In summary, the strengths of our community's quality of life are: 1)affordable living – relatively priced housing stock and affordable shopping options, 2) access to transportation centers – multi modes of transportations such as walking trails, sidewalks, and access to bus transit and commuter metro buses, 3) access to neighboring urban centers – such as Great Eastern Plaza, Penn Mar Shopping Center and Penn Station shopping center, and Washington, D.C., 4) recreational and cultural offerings – available through the recreation center and local religious institutions, and 4) a growing community garden program that provides direct access to growing and harvesting organic food, as well as health education. Homes, streets, and natural landscape are also well maintained by the City's Public Works Department

Recreational amenities-The City of District Heights is proud to offer the "Barack Obama" Recreation and Cultural center for its citizens. This all inclusive cultural center offers multiple events and resources for citizens. The cultural center is easily accessible to all residents by the walking trail, bus routes, and plenty of parking is available. The Center also hosts several annual events such the District Heights Day, Senior Luncheons and Entertainment, and partner with the District Heights Citizen Action Patrol to host the Annual National Night out against Crime community celebration. The District Heights Community Garden Program (DHCGP) is also becoming a strong pillar for community engagement. DHCGP hosts the following annual community events: Earth Day Celebration and the upcoming Oktoberfest 2013. Community Culture and History-The City also has a strong and stable senior citizen involvement in community programs, who contribute the celebration and remembrance of the City's history. The community is also very family-oriented and thus the need for the Recreation center to continue to develop programs and services that cater to families. The Sustainable District Heights taskforce is currently developing a land assembly and development strategy to create an Activity/Welcome venue in the CBD.

Family and youth services- The City also house the only Family and Youth services bureau (FYSB) in the south central area of Prince George's County. The FYSB provide free/reduced mental health services for children, youth and families. The FYSB is housed in a mobile trailer directly in front of the municipal building, and been stationed there for over 10 years. The mobile trailer is obsolete and thus the FYSB is in need of a new home. The City is currently exploring available properties in the community to relocate the FYSB offices. A larger facility will allow for more efficient service delivery of the community's mental health needs. The FYSB also provide afterschool tutoring, an annual college tour, and a STEM enrichment program for youths in the community.

The weaknesses of our community's quality of life are: public safety concerns, lack of workforce development and training for adults, lack of a recognized brand and marketing campaign, and a struggling commercial business district. The City is in a central location which offers transportation options which allows citizens to experience a wide variety of educational choices within the surrounding areas. Over ten top Universities are in commuting distance from the community.

The City has one educational institution within its incorporated boundaries – District Heights Elementary School. The City passed a resolution to develop a budget line item to support the improvement of District Heights Elementary in September 2013. The building is need of improvements and the City will be working with the school to identify funding and resources to support these efforts. Children in the community also attend neighborhoods elementary – Francis Scott Key, and North Forestville Elementary school; Drew Freeman Middle School; and high schools –Suitland High School and Bishop McNamara.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

C. Natural Resources and Environmental Impact: Strengths and Weaknesses

(1) Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the community's "natural environment." in or near the Sustainable Community Area. What is the current condition of key natural resources - lands, air, water, watersheds, tree canopy, other? If the community is located in a coastal zone, what risks might the community be subject to associated with climate induced sea level rise? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City is located within the southwest branch watershed. From a regional perspective District Heights is a part of the middle Potomac-Anacostia-Occoquan watershed. The watershed encompasses the total area of land where all water drains to the same place.

Vegetation within District Heights is mostly found on private land. The City is currently lacking in dense, continuous forest cover. District Heights is lacking in street cover on a majority of the streets. The City has been replacing trees over the past five years because the wrong trees were planted, and thus have strategically replaced trees as they die. District Heights lacks open space within its own municipal boundary. The city, however, has a well equipped eleven acre recreational and municipal center. Even though the municipal center offers the community well programmed open space, the community still wants more green places for their children to use safely within the District Heights municipality. A lot of Walker Mill Park property is undeveloped woodland for the surrounding communities to explore. Expanding the Heights' park trail project provides an opportunity to create a stronger pedestrian connection between the City and Walker Mill Park.

District Heights' residents want pocket parks (i.e. dog parks), community gardens, and aesthetic plantings that invite residents to the outdoors. By working with the surrounding green spaces, waterways, and connecting trails, District Heights can create intimate open spaces that connect to large recreational places.

The community garden program has also identified twelve city-owned open spaces throughout the community to be developed into gardens and open spaces.

Kipling Parkway is the main thoroughfare of the District Heights community. The parkway is primarily a link into the residential interior of the City; but it also makes connections to both commercial and recreation areas nearby. The Kipling Parkway Open Space & Stream Restoration Project focuses on the restoration of the city of District Heights' main thoroughfare, Kipling Parkway median and stream channel, which runs perpendicular to the Southwest Branch tributary and empties into the Chesapeake Bay. The stream is currently suffering from several erosion, degradation, and storm mitigation issues that have resulted in significant changes to the channel, floodplain, vegetation, flow and sediment supply, which is causing big changes to the water quality, habitat and flooding of adjacent properties (residential homes).

District Heights Parkway is located entirely within the boundary of the District Heights municipality. It is a corridor, partially divided by an impassible median, with an open air stream; the Southwest Branch Tributary. This stream and median currently act as barriers between the single family and multiple family dwellings of District Heights. This stream is a valuable physical and social resource.

In partnership with the Maryland State Highway, the City is planning a storm water mitigation project within the Marbury Dr. creek, and is expected to be completed in 2015. The creek severely eroding is immediate need of restoration. The UMD study also proposed to transform County Rd into a Green Street; being that the local elementary school is located on the street and traffic activity is high.

The City plan to identify additional financial alternatives to support the development of efficient infrastructure and storm water management best practices, to include installing impervious surfaces instead of concrete and asphalt for sidewalk and other surfacing improvements; installing/improving the existing green infrastructure to mitigate and enhance the local streams and natural resources; and install rain gardens and bio swales that will help with street/onsite facility storm water runoff. Green infrastructure investments will be made in both the residential and commercial area.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(2) Describe the strengths and weaknesses of any current efforts to reduce the community's "carbon footprint" or impact on the environment. Is recycling (commercial or residential) available to minimize waste? Are there current efforts to encourage the purchase and availability of fresh local food and other local products and services to the community? Describe any current energy or water conservation efforts that may be underway. If the community has not implemented one of the above initiatives, has the community identified a need or interest to pursue these or other efforts to reduce environmental impact, for instance through the new Sustainable Maryland Certified initiative? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City passed local Resolution DH 09-01 was passed on February 24, 2009, solidifying their commitment to decreasing green gas emissions both locally and globally.

The City of District Heights launched their Green Initiative on Thursday evening, February 26, 2009 by hosting a Green Workshop called "Green Homes for Non-Millionaires," where home energy saving tips were presented. Other green initiatives include the 1) 2000 Park Trail Project, 2) the start of the 2008 City Recycling Program, 3) 2009 Project Energy Light Bulb project, and 4) the 2008 City Beautiful Program/Green Program, which was further, developed into the District Heights Energy Efficiency Program (DHEEP).

The City Beautiful Program is administered through the City of District Heights, been funded by the Prince George's County, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Maryland's Community Legacy Program funds. The program offers homeowners who are low-to-moderate income; aged 50 and older; and/or disabled, an opportunity to beautify the exterior of their homes in order to upgrade their overall appearance, bring their properties up to City code, and adhere to Green Building standards; making quality homes more accessible.

New element - Rain Barrel Bonus- The City has added Rain barrels as an eligible home improvement under our City Beautiful Program. We will also be leveraging Prince George's Department of Environmental Resources' "Rain Check Rebate Program" to tap into additional financial incentive to reward residents for implementing a variety of green solutions for stormwater runoff. The City's goal is to have a Rain Barrels installed in at least 50% of all single family and townhomes by 2020.

The District Heights Energy Efficiency Program is a community-wide effort that provides financial assistance for energy efficient home retrofits to homeowners of single family and detached townhomes.

The District Heights Community Garden Program host organic fruits and vegetables for city resident volunteers who rent plots for a nominal fee. The ultimate goal for the garden is to provide produce in order to assist local needy families in the community, and provide healthy eating and gardening education. There are future plans to develop a farmer's market once the program is established.

The City would like to combine both programs under one application. By meeting the minimum eligibility qualifications the resident will qualify for assistance through both the City Beautiful and Energy Efficiency Program. The difference will be with the end product --- a Whole House Energy Efficient Renovation Program, which will include both exterior and interior eco-friendly and energy efficient home improvements.

The City plan to identify additional financial alternatives to support the development of efficient infrastructure and storm water management best practices, to include installing impervious surfaces instead of concrete and asphalt for sidewalk and other surfacing improvements; installing/improving the existing green infrastructure to mitigate and enhance the local streams and natural resources; and install rain gardens and bio swales that will help with street/onsite facility storm water runoff --- improvements to be made in both the residential and commercial area.

With all the green initiatives being implemented the City currently lacks, both a "Municipal Carbon Footprint and Community Carbon Footprint" study. The City has also applied to the Sustainable Maryland Certified Program (SMC). To assist with completing our application, SMC will be partnering with University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center to provide technical assistance to SMC applicants, in which we will be requesting assistance in Fall 2013 for 1) Municipal/Community Carbon Footprint study and 2) a marketing product(s) that will help promote the City's Park trail project, open space and natural resources, and future projects (i.e. the Kipling Parkway project).

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(3) Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the jurisdiction's current stormwater management practices and how these may affect the proposed SC Area. Is redevelopment and retrofitting of infrastructure an issue or opportunity in this SC Area? Stormwater runoff is a significant source of pollution to Maryland's streams and the Chesapeake Bay. Buildings constructed before 1985 have little or no stormwater controls, and development between 1985 and 2010 have some controls. Updated stormwater regulations passed by Maryland's General Assembly in 2010 require that development and redevelopment projects utilize stringent stormwater controls. Sustainable Community Areas may have opportunities for redevelopment practices that can reduce stormwater flows. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Washington Suburban Sanitation Commission manages stormwater infrastructure of the City. The City also works with the County which provides the upkeep and maintenance of the City's sewer and water lines.

Thus, the City does not have an updated stormwater control regulations in their code ordinance, which support the implementation of modern green solutions such as low-impact development and green infrastructure improvements, thus it will be difficult for the City to regulate and mandate in new development projects.

However, as a City we can implement better storm water runoff control along the streets and curbs of the City right-of-way. The City plans to develop policies that hold, both the government and residents, accountable for their behaviors. Residents put yard waste and debris on the curbs which get into the storm drains. This also creates a maintenance problem for public works. Public works also have to improve street sweeping schedules to remove trash and debris that gets into the storm drains.

The City can also work with the community garden program members, Sustainable District Heights' taskforce, and other local schools and organizations, to become better environmental stewards by organizing local community-wide cleanups of the streets and streams.

With all the green initiatives being implemented the City currently lacks, both a "Municipal Carbon Footprint and Community Carbon Footprint" study. The City has also applied to the Sustainable Maryland Certified Program (SMC). To assist with completing our application, SMC will be partnering with University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center to provide technical assistance to SMC applicants, in which we will be requesting assistance in Fall 2013 for 1) Municipal/Community Carbon Footprint study and 2) a marketing product(s) that will help promote the City's Park trail project, open space and natural resources, and future projects (i.e. the Kipling Parkway project). The Washington Suburban Sanitation Commission manages stormwater infrastructure of the City. The City also works with the County which provides the upkeep and maintenance of the City's sewer and water lines.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

D. Economic Conditions & Access to Opportunity: Strengths and Weaknesses

(1) Describe the jurisdiction's current economic strengths and weaknesses. For example, are there distinct economic drivers in the area or region that will affect access to job opportunities and the progress of the SC Plan? What are the main barriers to the Area's economic competitiveness? What is the current level of broadband access available to serve residents, businesses and public facilities? What efforts are currently in place to increase worker skills and employment? Describe trends in employment rates and business formation.

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The major economic driver in the City is the Municipal Government. The City operates with an annual operating budget of \$5.9 million, with the support of 40 full-time employees. The City also has a healthy unreserved fund of approximately \$900,000, which accounts for 6.5% of the annual budget. The city's property portfolio consists of open space and a variety of playgrounds, outdoor facilities surrounding the municipal building, and community-wide broadband.

The implementation of the City's Commercial Revitalization Program in 2009, created a comprehensive strategy for redevelopment of the commercial business district (CBD). Findings from past market studies revealed a variety of strengths and challenges in the CBD. The CBD is over 50 years old and in dire need of public investments. The CBD is located on Marlboro Pike, and serves as the City's primary commerce center for economic activity. Detrimental to the economic success of District Heights' CBD, is the issue of public safety. Successful downtown revitalization tools, such as the Main Street Four-Point Approach and Fannie Mae's Urban Main Street Model will be used interchangeably, to develop revitalization strategies unique to the CBD. Poor physical conditions also make the CBD susceptible to crime. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) was also found to be an effective strategy that addresses two issues in the commercial district (public safety and lack of visual identity) through using one approach.

The address this issues the City's developed a comprehensive revitalization and implementation strategy in 2009 which included a complete assessment of the City's CBD and surrounding region. Since 2009, the strategy has been used as a guide to regenerate economic growth and develop revitalization initiatives, and include incorporating CPTED principles into the design guidelines of the City's Façade and Infrastructure Improvement Program (FIIP). The City has been successful in leveraging a variety of funding sources to support a \$1.2 million façade renovation project in 2009-2010. The City has been successful in securing an additional \$450, 000 to further support façade and streetscape improvements in the CBD. The City believes that our FIIP program is an economic asset to revitalizing and attracting businesses to the CBD.

Population trends indicate that District Heights is a family community, consisting largely of children and residents over the age of 45 reside in the community. High school graduates are moving out of the community, which may correlate to the limited amount of job training and higher education opportunities. Moderate income levels and a fairly educated workforce show some potential for attracting development. High, college dropout rates also indicate a need for higher education and professional development opportunities locally. Local educational institutions partnerships are being explored by the SDH Taskforce. The current local industry does not support the District Heights' working population; most residents work outside the City.

The City's geographic location offers a short commute and easy access to public transportation; something that is highly desirable for new residents. The lower cost of living and small town atmosphere could attract more residents with a higher amount of disposable income. The affordable cost of housing, available parking; and more living space are huge attractions that if marketed right could attract a higher educated and more diverse population to the community.

Combined with the recent drop in crime and great walking trails, and the emphasis on sustainable living, the community has great potential to attract new residents. By understanding the diverse mix of incomes in the community, the strength lies in the ability of the City to provide diverse housing and retail options that cater to all income groups. Creating activity centers will help bring economic and social vibrancy to the CBD.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(2) Describe the jurisdiction's housing market and access to affordable workforce housing. What are the trends in residential construction (rental and homeownership), homeownership rate, foreclosure rate and, property values. Describe how and whether your jurisdiction's prevailing housing costs - both homeownership and rental - are affordable to households below 120% AMI, 80% AMI and 50% AMI. What efforts are in place currently to house individuals, families and the disabled at or below the AMI levels described above? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City has a mature housing stock, which consists of 1,597 single family homes, 135 townhomes, and a large 509 unit apartment complex. The homes and apartment complex are generally well-kept, with the help of the City's code enforcement standards. Buildings in District Heights are primarily residential and range in age from 1925 circa 1965, with a few traditional style homes built in the 1980s. The City's apartment complex received a historical designation as a "historic multi-family development" from M-NCCPC and the City became a Historical Community of Prince George's in 2010. The City recognizes the rich architecture of our building stock and strives to preserve the conditions of our buildings through our innovative home improvement programs – City Beautiful and DHEEP.

Affordable Housing - The City does have a 510 unit apartment complex that is very well managed and offers Section 8 housing.

Trends in Residential Construction: From the year 2006 to present there has been no new construction of homes until most recently.

1) According to the 2009 Marlboro Pike Sector Plan and Proposed Small Area Plan (SMA), by Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), the vision for Housing along the Marlboro Pike Corridor, will consist of "a variety of housing options in order to strengthen and preserve existing communities, increase home ownership, and provide additional high quality housing choices in the area. Preservation efforts will also be employed for the existing neighborhoods. These efforts deter large development projects outside the community conservation areas. New housing choices are also recommended in certain priority areas to provide new, high-quality housing that will complement the surrounding neighborhoods."

2) According to MNCPPC (2009) SMA Plan, the priority area 5 that includes Great Eastern Plaza, which is located near the center of Marlboro Pike Corridor and the District Heights Commercial area. The concept for the site is to redevelop into a "Health and Wellness Center" that include the extension of the existing retail structure to front along Marlboro Pike, new retail stores that focus on health and wellness, a mix of medical offices, and a senior townhome housing development; and an attractive public space.

3) The proposed "Residences at Woodland Springs Townhome Community" consists of the new construction of 36 high quality, energy efficient, two story townhomes on a 3.9 acre parcel at the intersection of Rochelle Avenue and Atwood Street in District Heights Maryland.

Homeownership Rate: 1,442 of the 1,732 homes in the City are occupied by the owner, which results in a homeownership rate of 83%. Foreclosure Rate: In the past year 7 of the City's 1,732 homes have been foreclosed on making the foreclosure rate 0.4%.

The weaknesses of our housing stock can be seen in the impacts of foreclosure crisis of 2010-2011, and experienced a drastic decrease in property value over the past year (28%). From July 1, 2011 to July 1, 2012 the total property value of all homes in the City decreased from the amount of \$400,762,520 to \$293,112,582. The median home price in the year 2011 was \$150,000. We see the lower home prices as a strength in regards to attracting working families and young professionals to the community, and as result will work to create a variety of housing options at different market prices to attract a diverse mix of homebuyers and renters.

Property Values: In the past year property values of the City's homes have fell by 28%.

The Average Median Income (AMI) for the City is \$61,685, which is higher than 50% of the area's median income. The average housing costs per household per year is \$17,220, and when compared the area's median income of \$61,685, accounts for 28 percent of housing costs.

The City's housing costs are affordable to those living in the 100% and above category of the AMI index.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(3) Describe the SC Area's demographic trends (with respect to age, race, household size, household income, educational attainment, or other relevant factors). (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City has a total population of 5,860, according to U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey. There 2,200 households with an average household size of 2.63. Family households are the largest group (1,512). 2012 population projections estimate an increase to 5,949. The recent population trend appears relatively stable. There are 318 households with grandparents, and further more 169 with grandparents responsible for grandchildren. Number of Males is 2,813. Number of Females is 3,314.

The Median Resident Age is 33.6 years. The Average Median Income is \$61,685. The estimated Median House Value: \$236,996. The Cost of Living Index is 131.4.

The population racial makeup consist of: Black alone - 5,372 (87.1%); White alone - 548 (8.9%); Two or more races - 135 (2.2%); Hispanic - 102 (1.7%); and American Indian alone - 9 (0.1%). There are 313 Residents are Foreign Born, of which 261 are un-naturalized citizens. In addition, there are 5,429 people over the age of 5, of which, 146 speaks a language other than English --- 118 of this population speak Spanish.

There are 1,407 residents over 3 years old enrolled in school and of the population 495 are in elementary school (largest group). There are 3,787 people over the age of 25 of which most of have achieved a high school education (1,680). 897 people received some college education and 464 have received a bachelor degree. Lastly, 235 residents received a graduate or professional degree.

III. LOCAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT PLANS & PROJECTS

A. Organizational Structure:

Describe the Applicant's organizational structure. Specifically, which organizations are members in the Sustainable Communities Workgroup and who are the respective staff? Who are the leaders, and how will the Workgroup advisor or staff manage implementation of the SC Area Plan? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City is run by a Mayor and Commission form of government. The City employs a City Manager that is directed by the Mayor and Commission. Each Commissioner is in charge of one of the four major government departments. The City has forty employees in these Departments: Police Department/Code Enforcement, General Government Department, the Recreation Department, Public Works, and Youth Services Bureau.

In order to fully execute and manage the Sustainable Communities Plan there must be a managing body with the sole responsibility to develop and implement the Plan, which will ensure future success and accountability. The following breakdown outlines the managing body. The taskforce was formally adopted at the August 2013.

Sustainable Communities Taskforce Members consist of: City's Urban Planner, 1 elected official, 4-7 citizens/committee leaders, Business Representatives, Local Church Institutions Representatives, Local School Representatives, and Technical Advisors – Subject Experts.

The Taskforce will be responsible for all aspects, leading and fulfilling the goals of the plan. The Taskforce, convened by the Mayor, will be made up of civic leaders from the public, private, and non-profit sectors, in order to take a comprehensive observation on the development of the plan, as they review the plan from a broad range of community perspectives.

The Taskforce will also develop eight smaller working groups, sometimes consisting of Taskforce members and other dedicated volunteers that will meet every other week to identify and prioritize potential goals and action objectives within the eight themes of the Sustainable Communities Plan.

The Taskforce and Working Groups will report all actions to the City Manager and Mayor and Commission.

City Green Team Member consists of the City Manager and City department directors. The City Green Team, convened by the Mayor, led by the City Manager, and composed of City Department Directors, will determine how the City's Departments can creatively incorporate sustainable practices while advancing their core missions.

Youth Green Team Members will consist of 6 – 10 Middle and/or High Students, School Liaison, and a Youth Team Coordinator. The Youth Green Team, convened by the Mayor, student-led and directed by Coordinator, will work collaboratively with the Taskforce, to review the elements of the Plan and develop projects for implementation that accomplish the goals and objectives of the plan. The Youth Green Team will meet every month to review the progress of the Plan.

III. LOCAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT PLANS & PROJECTS

B.Organizational Experience:

Describe the Applicant organization's past experience in administering revitalization plans and projects. Describe the roles of the members of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup, including their experience in implementing revitalization initiatives. What are the strengths and challenges of the capacity of these groups with respect to implementation of the SC Plan? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City Urban Planner has been working with the City for the past eight and a half years and has been successful in developing and managing the City's community and economic development initiatives.

Sustainable Communities Taskforce Members consist of: City's Urban Planner, The leader of the Working Group is the City's Urban Planner, bringing years of professional urban planning experience to the table. The City's Urban Planner provides direction for advancement for the group. Bringing comprehensible vision to the community and a strong dedication for advancement of smart growth, she serves as the project manager for the group. A resident co-chair will also be designated to serve in the absence of the Urban Planner.

One elected official, 4-7 citizens/committee leaders (District Heights Community Garden program coordinator and Master Gardener; Garden Club Manager and Green business owner of landscaping company; Resident Artist and experienced Veterans and workforce development manager; AARP regional president w/over 30 years of real estate and insurance/liability insurance, EDAC chair; Project manager and administration manager in the federal government; Youth program leader; Recreation Council chair with over 18 years experience in managing recreation programs); Business Representatives; Local Church Institutions Representatives; Local School Representatives; and Technical Advisors – Subject Experts.

Ideas such as basic community organizing and general business recruitment and development can be achieved by the Taskforce who will work together to sustain and form committees and citizen advisory panels. The Taskforce have developed a framework for the successful adoption and implementation of the plan.

Plan Framework

Vision- "What are your hopes and aspirations for the future of the community?"

A vision statement captures what community members most value about their community, and the shared image of what they want their community to become. It inspires community members to work together to achieve the vision. A thoughtful vision statement is one of the elements needed to form a forward looking strategic framework that gives councils or boards the long-term-comprehensive perspective necessary to make rational and disciplined tactical/incremental decisions on community issues as they arise.

Goals- "Where are we going" part of the plan.

These are statements of what the community must have in order to be successful.

Objectives- "How we are going to get there" part of the plan.

Objectives are statements of what must occur in order for the goal to be met.

Initiatives/Action Strategies-"How we are going to get there" part of the plan.

Initiatives are projects or programs that will be undertaken during the year in order to meet specific objectives.

They have a start and end date and progress is monitored along the way to insure they get done.

Plan Performance Measures (sometimes called performance indicators): Tell us if we are making progress in meeting our objectives. They are specific data sets that alone, or when combined with other information, tells the story of our progress. Progress reports w/pre-established performance measures will be developed. Monthly reports submitted to the Mayor and Commission. Annual report released to the public, Mayor and Commission

Projected Timeline – (has been extended to November 2013 (December 2013, if necessary))

Developing the Vision: June - September 2013

Strategic plan development phase: July – September 2013

Preliminary Plan Public Hearing: September 2013 -October 2013

Final Plan Approved by Commission: October 2013 -November 2013

A full Branding and Marketing Strategy is needed to ensure that the PLAN is fully marketed to the public and information is readily and legibly available in a quality, user-friendly format. The Branding and Marketing strategy will include expenses to funding marketing materials and promotion of the Plan logo.

III. LOCAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT PLANS & PROJECTS

C. Public Input:

How did residents and other stakeholders in the community provide input to Action Plan described below in Section IV? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

In developing the Sustainable Community Action plan application, the City welcomed comments, suggestions, and advice from citizens, community groups, educators, and anyone with input for the Sustainable Community Action Plan. The Urban Planner with the assistance of Taskforce members and local volunteers held three public meetings in 2013 that provide residents detailed over on the Sustainable Communities Plan. Visioning sessions and SWOT analysis exercises were completed by community residents, City Staff, and an environmental committee made up of members of the community garden program/garden club. Surveys were distributed at local events. Various online social websites are being utilized to gain input and communicate to the public. All comments were taken into account when compiling the plan by the taskforce.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The Sustainable Community Action Plan (SC Plan or Plan) is meant to be a multi-year investment strategy - a strategic set of revitalization initiatives and projects that local partners believe will increase the economic vitality and livability of their community, increased prosperity for local households and improved health of the surrounding environment. The Plan should be flexible enough to be updated regularly and renewed every five years as the community envisions new goals. The priority initiatives and projects in the SC Plan should improve the livability of community places -- residential, commercial, or other public or private properties - and create new work, retail, recreational and housing opportunities for residents. These projects should also reduce the environmental impact of the community through water and energy resource conservation and management strategies. In this way, the Plan can be a road map for local stakeholders as well as State agencies to work together to create a more a sustainable and livable community.

A. Supporting existing communities & reducing environmental impacts.

(1) A community's approach to Smart Growth generally includes two inter-related areas of focus: encouraging reinvestment and growth in existing communities; and, discouraging growth that degrades natural resources, and farms and rural landscapes. Broadly describe your jurisdiction's Smart Growth approach and any significant accomplishments made over the last decade or so. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The vision was developed by District Heights residents, businesses, City Staff, and a compendium of ideas and recommendations from local professionals. The vision focuses on six thematic approaches: 1) Revitalization, 2) Environment, 3) Transportation and Mobility, 3) Healthy Community and People, 4) People Places, Spaces, and Art 5) Sociability and Leadership, 6) City Services and Promotion, and 7) Education.

The vision prioritizes community investments in five major areas of the City: 1) Neighborhood, Parks and Open Space, 2) Marlboro Pike Commercial Corridor, 2) Kipling Parkway and Marbury Drive, and the 4) District Heights Elementary School and vicinity, and 5) Municipal Building and Grounds.

Revitalization - District Heights land area is largely developed. Revitalization efforts can be seen in the City's \$2 million commercial revitalization efforts and housing rehabilitation initiatives. The City will consider future business improvement district (BID) and Tax increment financing legislation to support development.

Housing Preservation and Development-Housing preservation and compact development, most importantly, help to improve the community's overall quality of life and economic future. Local housing investments can be seen in the City's existing home improvement programs (DHEEP and City Beautiful Program) and housing development.

Land Use -The zoning for District Heights and its surrounding areas primarily consists of residential and C-S-C. There are also no residential land uses directly on Marlboro Pike within the incorporated boundaries of the City; however, future plans for the corridor call for a mixture of land uses.

Transportation and Mobility -District Heights is a commuter suburb and is accessible by car and metro rail, which operate throughout the D.C. metropolitan area. The City will build on the community's environmental assets – open air streams, green infrastructure, and interesting topography, to create beautiful, safe, healthy, and eco-friendly infrastructure developments.

District Heights in the Prince George's County, Healthy Heights Initiative, which is made up of County agency representatives, and the community, to promote the overall health and wellness in the District Heights and Capital Heights communities. Local initiatives such as Community Garden Program and Let's Move Initiatives demonstrate the City's growing commitment towards building a healthy community.

Sociability & Leadership - Improving community relationships and empowering community members to take an active role through volunteerism and leadership is the foundation to building a sustainable community for the long-term.

Environment - Make energy efficient upgrades to public buildings, improving the storm water systems, and cleaning up public areas and neighborhood streams. Encourage residents of all ages to become local stewards of the land is an effective strategy to utilizing both government and "people" resources to improve the local environment.

Healthy Community and People - City programs and amenities such as community gardens, open fields and open spaces make it possible for people to connect, learn, and grow healthier together.

People Spaces, Places, and Art -Using "people" first, as the critical driver to creating vibrant places and spaces throughout the community, will be the most important strategy to creating a sustainable and livable city. Public spaces have been transformed through the use of Art.

Effective city services also ensure that community assets are maintained and residents' needs are addressed. Using a variety of communication media keep residents informed and promotes community transparency and trust.

Education- The City plan to build partnerships with local higher education organizations, such as colleges, universities, and technical trade schools to develop innovative programs that focus on unique education programs that meet the specific needs of individual communities.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) Describe any major investments in community infrastructure -water, stormwater, sewer, sidewalk, lighting, etc. -- that must be undertaken in order to improve the readiness or competitiveness of the proposed SC Area for private investment and compliance (if applicable) with TMDL regulations. Addressing the stormwater during redevelopment can reduce the pollution entering our streams and contribution to the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. Investments in infrastructure, generally, can be an important catalyst for new private investment in the community. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City currently received State funding to support the purchasing of outdoor exercise equipment and lighting to be installed along the park trails. The City currently needs additional funding to support the development of construction-level drawings to solicit a contractor to fabricate and install the equipment and lights along the trails. In regards to street lighting, the City will need additional dollars to support installing additional street lighting in the residential areas in dark areas in the community. Residents will feel safer in their homes.

The City will also continue to work with the State Highway Administration and the County's Department of Environmental resources to complete the Marbury Drive Storm water mitigation project in 2015. In addition, the City will engage respective state and local partners to complete the Kipling Parkway Open Space & Stream Restoration Project focuses on the restoration of the city of District Heights' main thoroughfare, Kipling Parkway median and stream channel, which runs perpendicular to the Southwest Branch tributary and empties into the Chesapeake Bay. Kipling Parkway is the main thoroughfare of the District Heights community. The parkway is primarily a link into the residential interior of the City; but it also makes connections to both commercial and recreation areas nearby. The stream is currently suffering from several erosion, degradation, and storm mitigation issues that have resulted in significant changes to the channel, floodplain, vegetation, flow and sediment supply, which is causing big changes to the water quality, habitat and flooding of adjacent properties (residential homes).

The City will also focus on updating existing stormwater control regulations in their code ordinance, to support the implementation of modern green solutions such as low-impact development and green infrastructure improvements, which will make it easier for the City to regulate and mandate in new development projects.

As a City, it can implement better storm water runoff control along the streets and curbs of the City right-of-way. The City plans to develop policies that hold, both the government and residents, accountable for their behaviors. Residents put yard waste and debris on the curbs which get into the storm drains. This also creates a maintenance problem for public works. Public works also have to improve street sweeping schedules to remove trash and debris that gets into the storm drains.

The City can also work with the community garden program members, Sustainable District Heights' taskforce, and other local schools and organizations, to become better environmental stewards by organizing local community-wide cleanups of the streets and streams.

The City plan to identify additional financial alternatives to support the development of efficient infrastructure and storm water management best practices, to include installing impervious surfaces instead of concrete and asphalt for sidewalk and other surfacing improvements; installing/improving the existing green infrastructure to mitigate and enhance the local streams and natural resources; and install rain gardens and bio swales that will help with street/onsite facility storm water runoff --- improvements to be made in both the residential and commercial area.

With all the green initiatives being implemented the City currently lacks, both a "Municipal Carbon Footprint and Community Carbon Footprint" study. The City has also applied to the Sustainable Maryland Certified Program (SMC). To assist with completing our application, SMC will be partnering with University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center to provide technical assistance to SMC applicants, in which we will be requesting assistance in Fall 2013 for 1) Municipal/Community Carbon Footprint study and 2) a marketing product(s) that will help promote the City's Park trail project, open space and natural resources, and future projects (i.e. Kipling Parkway).

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Describe policies, initiatives or projects that the community will undertake or expand in order to reduce the SC Area's impact on the environment. Examples include but are not limited to: conservation or management of stormwater through retrofitting of streets and by-ways (Green Streets, rain gardens, etc.); retrofitting of facilities and homes for energy conservation; implementation of "green" building codes and mixed-use zoning; recycling of waste; clean-ups of watersheds; and, encouragement of "Buy Local" approaches that benefit local suppliers and food producers. A comprehensive menu of such actions may be found through the nonprofit Sustainable Maryland Certified initiative. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City has requested additional funds from Community Legacy to support the City Beautiful and DHEEP programs. The City Beautiful Program is administered through the City of District Heights, been funded by the Prince George's County, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Maryland's Community Legacy Program funds. The program offers homeowners who are low-to-moderate income; aged 50 and older; and/or disabled, an opportunity to beautify the exterior of their homes in order to upgrade their overall appearance, bring their properties up to City code, and adhere to Green Building standards; making quality homes more accessible.

New element - Rain Barrel Bonus- The City has added Rain barrels as an eligible home improvement under our City Beautiful Program. We will also be leveraging Prince George's Department of Environmental Resources' "Rain Check Rebate Program" to tap into additional financial incentive to reward residents for implementing a variety of green solutions for stormwater runoff. The City's goal is to have a Rain Barrels installed in at least 50% of all single family and townhomes by 2020.

The District Heights Energy Efficiency Program is a community-wide effort that provides financial assistance for energy efficient home retrofits to homeowners of single family and detached townhomes.

The District Heights Community Garden Program host organic fruits and vegetables for city resident volunteers who rent plots for a nominal fee. The ultimate goal for the garden is to provide produce in order to assist local needy families in the community, and provide healthy eating and gardening education. There are future plans to develop a farmer's market once the program is established.

The City would like to combine both programs under one application. By meeting the minimum eligibility qualifications the resident will qualify for assistance through both the City Beautiful and Energy Efficiency Program. The difference will be with the end product --- a Whole House Energy Efficient Renovation Program, which will include both exterior and interior eco-friendly and energy efficient home improvements. The City plans to enact the new International Green Building Construction codes (IGCC) in the local code ordinance, to make it easier to enforce building codes.

With all the green initiatives being implemented the City currently lacks, both a "Municipal Carbon Footprint and Community Carbon Footprint" study. The City has also applied to the Sustainable Maryland Certified Program (SMC). To assist with completing our application, SMC will be partnering with University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center to provide technical assistance to SMC applicants, in which we will be requesting assistance in Fall 2013 for 1) Municipal/Community Carbon Footprint study and 2) a marketing product(s) that will help promote the City's Park trail project, open space and natural resources, and future projects (i.e. the Kipling Parkway project).

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MNCPPC Marlboro Pike Sector Plan and SMA call for the appropriate rezoning of commercially zoned properties, to provide incentives and allow for infill development in the commercial district. The City will also work with M-NCPPC and the Department of Pubic Works and Transportation to further complete streetscape improvements in the CBD that adhere to Complete Streets principles.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City Urban Planner has been working with the City for the past eight and a half years and has been successful in developing and managing the City's community and economic development initiatives.

Sustainable Communities Taskforce Members consist of: City's Urban Planner, The leader of the Working Group is the City's Urban Planner, bringing years of professional urban planning experience to the table. The City's Urban Planner provides direction for advancement for the group. Bringing comprehensible vision to the community and a strong dedication for advancement of smart growth, she serves as the project manager for the group. A resident co-chair will also be designated to serve in the absence of the Urban Planner.

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IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

B. Valuing communities and neighborhoods -- building upon assets and building in amenities:

(1) What are the key assets that exist in the community upon which the Plan's projects and initiatives will build? Assets may include physical assets such as parks and historic structures and also civic and economic assets such as employers, educational institutions, and cultural organizations and activities. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City have several key assets that differentiate us from other Maryland communities. First and foremost our location is key and the number one selling factor for business and economic development. Other key assets include our community parks, the recreation and cultural center, our transportation system of buses and roadways, and our local government TV Channel. The city's police and public works department provide direct street maintenance and trash removal, as well as public safety services for City residents.

The community is mostly residential, leading to another key asset, the residential properties and the citizens who own, live, and maintain the properties. Knowing the key assets of the community, it is easy to see why achieving a Sustainable Community designation is absolutely crucial in retaining and attracting key community assets.

Achieving a Sustainable Community designation and qualifying for all of the additional funding opportunities and benefits is needed in order to continue our vast efforts at becoming a better green community, sustainable community, safe community, and commercial destination.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) What policies, initiatives or projects will reuse or enhance the historical assets, traditional business districts/Main Streets and cultural resources of the community? What actions will reinforce your community's authentic "sense of place" and historic character? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The community is proud to host a Recreation, Wellness, and Cultural Center which hosts a variety of programs, including but not limited to:

- Adult Open Gym
- Bible Study
- Boxing
- Chair Aerobics
- Crocheting
- Female Mentoring
- Male Mentoring
- Fitness Center
- Open Gym
- Senior Line Dance
- Senior Wii Bowling League
- Tai Chi
- Tang Soo Do Karate
- Tennis
- Tutoring
- Football
- Golf Lessons
- Homework Help
- 3D Elite Cheerleaders
- Standing Ovations Dance Class
- Zumba

The Recreation Center also plays host and partners with the following Clubs and Organizations: AARP Chapter #939, Citizens Action Patrol, District Heights Boys and Girls Club, Marbury Homeowners Association, Stamp Club, and Take Off Pounds Sensibly group. The Recreation Center also offers a full service 12 person computer lab for citizen use in job and employment searching, as well as provides a space for the children's weekly homework lab.

Additional recreational and cultural programs hosted throughout the year include:

- Black History Month programming including lectures, dances, and educational seminars
- A flex pay summer camp for children
- District Heights Day – a community carnival which features booths for small businesses and activities for children and adults
- A free Thanksgiving luncheon
- Hosts a National Tap Dance Day Program
- Hosts a Community Game Day
- Hosts a Community Movie Day
- Hosts a Community Skate Party
- Hosts a Community Kickball Game
- Hosts a Mother and Daughter Breakfast
- Hosts Friday Night Teen Night Activities

The City of District Heights is proud to honor its commitment to reinforce the community's authentic "sense of place" and paying homage to the current President by hosting the "Barack Obama" Recreation and Wellness Center. The City of District Heights is a proud participant in a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program, an opportunity to make walking and bicycling to school safer and more accessible for children, including those with disabilities, and to increase the number of children who choose to walk and bicycle. On a broader level, SRTS programs can enhance children's health and well-being, ease traffic congestion near the school and improve air quality and improve community members' overall quality of life. Additional community events and educational workshops are offered through the District Heights Community Garden Program.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Describe policies, initiatives or projects that will increase community access to green spaces, parks and other amenities? A community can gain social and physical benefits from access to a healthy natural environment. The inclusion of complete streets, trails, green space, parks and trees contribute to the character and health of a community. Examples might include improvements to the tree canopy by planting street trees, improving local neighborhood streams, or reusing a vacant lot for a new community park or playground.*(Answer Space 4,000 characters)*

District Heights prides itself on being an accessible community where resources and opportunity are made available to every citizen. This is why it is especially important to recognize the size of the community and the offerings made available. For a small local government, approximately 5,837 people, the offerings for parks, recreation, and green living are extremely progressive in comparison with other localities our size.

The City also offers residents a city-wide walking trail which runs through the City linking transportation centers and the municipal building. The trail makes the community truly walkable and green.

The City is committed to healthy food and education to its residents, which can be seen in the District Heights Garden Program (DHGCP). DHGCP has also identified twelve city-owned open spaces/sites for future development of community garden, landscaping, and open space.

The City's recreational and cultural activities at our Barack Obama Recreation and Cultural Center provide healthy, social activities for residents as well. The City also has four playgrounds and a newly renovated ball-field and outdoor sports areas located in the municipality.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City is run by a Mayor and Commission form of government. The City employs a City Manager that is directed by the Mayor and Commission. Each Commissioner is in charge of one of the four major government departments. The City has forty employees in these Departments: Police Department/Code Enforcement, General Government Department, the Recreation Department, Public Works, and Youth Services Bureau.

In order to fully execute and manage the Sustainable Communities Plan there must be a managing body with the sole responsibility to develop and implement the Plan, which will ensure future success and accountability. The following breakdown outlines the managing body. The taskforce was formally adopted at the August 2013.

Sustainable Communities Taskforce Members consist of: City's Urban Planner, 1 elected official, 4-7 citizens/committee leaders, Business Representatives, Local Church Institutions Representatives, Local School Representatives, and Technical Advisors – Subject Experts.

The Taskforce will be responsible for all aspects, leading and fulfilling the goals of the plan. The Taskforce, convened by the Mayor, will be made up of civic leaders from the public, private, and non-profit sectors, in order to take a comprehensive observation on the development of the plan, as they review the plan from a broad range of community perspectives.

The Taskforce will also develop eight smaller working groups, sometimes consisting of Taskforce members and other dedicated volunteers that will meet every other week to identify and prioritize potential goals and action objectives within the eight themes of the Sustainable Communities Plan.

The Taskforce and Working Groups will report all actions to the City Manager and Mayor and Commission.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

C. Enhancing economic competitiveness

(1) What economic development policies, initiatives or projects will improve the economy through investments in small businesses and other key employment sectors? What economic development and business incentives will you build upon or implement as part of the SC Plan? Examples could include but are not limited to: green-taping for expedited project application review; permitting and inspection; job training; business tax credits; and, revolving loan funds. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City's Commercial Revitalization and Implementation Strategy is based on four principles: 1) Organization, Building Relationships & Communication, 2) Design and Public Safety, 3) Economic Restructuring, and 4) Promotion. The revitalization principles are based on the Main Street Four-Point Approach and the Urban Main Street Model, which in combination addresses the our commercial revitalization needs.

To accomplish our commercial revitalization strategies and vision, the City implemented the "Commercial Revitalization Program" in 2009.

Large investments can be seen through the City's Façade and Infrastructure improvements completed in 2009 - 2010 in the commercial area. The City is currently implementing Phase II, which consist of Façade and Streetscape improvements in the commercial area, which is supported by additional funding secured from Prince George's County, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The City, through its Façade Improvement Grant program, will provide financial assistance to eight businesses located in the 6100 and 6200 Block of Marlboro Pike, this year 2012. Façade design assistance is being provided by Neighborhood Design Center of Prince George's County (Design Concepts are attached on the CD). The City is currently securing architects to complete the construction drawings, and will work with the property owners to complete the renovations.

The City will also be utilizing CDBG funds to complete Streetscape improvements in the Commercial Area. The Streetscape project consists of: Neighborhood Street Banners, sidewalks/Infrastructure, and landscaping, hard cape, as well as gateway signage.

The City have established relationships with various Prince County agencies, such as the Department of Public Works and Transportation, Department of Natural Resources, Pepco Holdings, and the Department of Housing and Community Development, to ensure successful completion of our streetscape project.

District Heights Commercial Revitalization Program is currently supported by \$454, 537 in Prince George's County, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, however, these funds are expected to be used within the next fiscal year 2013-2014.

Commercial Revitalization Program – New GreenBIZ Grant Program

The commercial district is surrounded by stable communities, major employment centers and transportation modes, which indicate a potential demand for future development and marketing, in and around the commercial district that target these areas. Therefore, in order to help enhance our commercial revitalization strategy, in regards to, business development and attraction (potential home buyers and businesses), the City of District Heights is expanding its Façade Grant Improvement Program, the City will be taking it a step further to develop a GreenBIZ Grant Program. Utilizing U.S. Small Business Administration's Energy Efficiency Guide for small businesses, the City has crafted a "GreenBIZ Grant Program" that will provide small businesses in the City's Commercial Business District with matching grants ranging from \$5,000 - \$10,000 depending on each business individuals energy efficient and improvement needs to repair or remodel their properties. We plan to solicit funds to support this new program.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) What workforce development policies, initiatives or projects will increase access to jobs and economic opportunity for residents in the SC Area? Do you have a goal for job creation? Are green jobs an opportunity in the jurisdiction or SC Area? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Workforce Development Priorities: The City is dedicated to attracting and bringing in new business which fosters job creation and growth for its citizens. In order to achieve a satisfiable result, the City has undertaken business development initiatives such as reaching out to business owners, commercial development, economic development, and business retention efforts. Currently, the main focus lies in the commercial revitalization project of the Marlboro Pike commercial area, but eventually this focus will expand to include a full-scale and comprehensive community development vision.

Goals for Job Creation: The City of District Heights is a mostly residential jurisdiction, although there is one main commercial pathway in the City which can lead to increased business and job creation. Encouraging stable business activity which fosters job growth in the Marlboro Pike commercial district is the job creation goal for the City. Attracting new business to vacant store-fronts and encouraging current business to grow and hire more employees is the plan. Efforts have been made to organize the property and business owners of this Commercial District with the ultimate goal of job creation and growth.

Green Jobs: The City is committed to resource management and greening our economy and jobs. Programs such as the Community Garden, Safe Routes to School, the community-wide Park Trail, and the Energy Efficiency Program show our commitment to sustainability. Green jobs are the future of America and certainly something the City is looking forward to attracting and having more of. The City recognizes and looks forward to job growth, attracting businesses to the City which partake and play in the "Green Economy" and provide Green Jobs are a priority.

Teaming Mindset: Street-level bureaucrats experience many individual dilemmas while working in public services. Often times supply does not meet demand. Residents demand a level of services and activities that supersedes the amount of resources or supply available. As a small City it is a race to keep up with demand. This is why the concept of "teaming" or partnering up with other localities to provide services is key to development. The City is open to new opportunities at many levels and teaming up with other localities to reach a mutual goal is at times necessary and acceptable.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Describe whether the Sustainable Community will be impacted by the Base Re-alignment and Closure (BRAC) activities in Maryland. If impacted, how do the initiatives and projects in your Plan complement BRAC-related growth? (If not applicable, all ten points will be assessed based on answers to questions 1, 2, and 4) (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

BRAC activities will not impact our community.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

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IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

D. Promoting access to quality affordable housing.

(1) What housing policies, initiatives or projects will expand housing choices - rental and homeownership -- for people of a range of ages, incomes, and also for disabled individuals? How will these actions address the current housing conditions and needs noted in Section II? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City Beautiful Program is administered through the City of District Heights, been funded by the Prince George's County, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Maryland's Community Legacy Program funds. The program offers homeowners who are low-to-moderate income; aged 50 and older; and/or disabled, an opportunity to beautify the exterior of their homes in order to upgrade their overall appearance, bring their properties up to City code, and adhere to Green Building standards; making quality homes more accessible.

New element - Rain Barrel Bonus- The City has added Rain barrels as an eligible home improvement under our City Beautiful Program. We will also be leveraging Prince George's Department of Environmental Resources' "Rain Check Rebate Program" to tap into additional financial incentive to reward residents for implementing a variety of green solutions for stormwater runoff. The City's goal is to have a Rain Barrels installed in at least 50% of all single family and townhomes by 2020.

The District Heights Energy Efficiency Program is a community-wide effort that provides financial assistance for energy efficient home retrofits to homeowners of single family and detached townhomes.

The District Heights Community Garden Program host organic fruits and vegetables for city resident volunteers who rent plots for a nominal fee. The ultimate goal for the garden is to provide produce in order to assist local needy families in the community, and provide healthy eating and gardening education. There are future plans to develop a farmer's market once the program is established.

The City would like to combine both programs under one application. By meeting the minimum eligibility qualifications the resident will qualify for assistance through both the City Beautiful and Energy Efficiency Program. The difference will be with the end product --- a Whole House Energy Efficient Renovation Program, which will include both exterior and interior eco-friendly and energy efficient home improvements.

The new townhomes proposed at woodland springs will add additional affordable housing to the community.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) Will these housing initiatives or projects increase access to transit or community walkability and/or decrease transportation costs? In other words, will the housing investments result in more people living near work or town centers, or able to more conveniently reach work, school, shopping and/or recreation? *(Answer Space 4,000 characters)*

One of the great benefits of our community is the fact that the location is amazing. Citizens can easily reach Washington, D.C. by driving down the highway a few miles, hopping on a bus, or biking. District Heights is a walkable community with many side-walks and key routes which can lead you wherever you desire. Transportation is well-planned, funded, and dependable. The housing initiative of which the City is undertaking will lead to a better quality of life and housing for new and existing homeowners.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) What is your goal for of number of units to be created of affordable workforce housing, rental and homeownership? What populations (by income or special needs) will benefit from this increased access to affordable housing? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The proposed "Residences at Woodland Springs Townhome Community" consists of the new construction of 36 high quality, energy efficient, two story townhomes on a 3.9 acre parcel at the intersection of Rochelle Avenue and Atwood Street in District Heights Maryland.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City is committed to promoting equitable access to quality affordable housing. The key stakeholders in implementation of our housing efforts will be: The City Manager, The City Urban Planner, and Concerned Residents.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

E. Support transportation efficiency and access.

(1) What policies, strategies and projects are envisioned to strengthen the transportation network that affects the proposed SC Area? How will these initiatives support transportation choices (including walking, bicycling, bus or rail transit, and carpooling) or otherwise promote an efficient transportation network that integrates housing and transportation land uses? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City of District Heights is a land-locked residential community which lacks open space. The ultimate goal of the community is to maximize what we already have. Fortunately our location puts us at the center of transportation and transportation choices. Walking, bus, driving, and carpooling routes into and out of the City are widely available. Our Park-Trail system is a walking trail which runs throughout the City, linking transportation centers and allowing for a more efficient transportation network for pedestrians. Our efforts at Commercial Revitalization will increase the walkability of the Commercial District and spur commercial development. One of the main priorities in the upkeep of our transportation network is the maintenance and upkeep of Street Lights in the City. A partnership between several City departments allows us to progress our vision of efficient and effective transportation.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) If applicable, describe the SC Area's connection or proximity to transportation centers (e.g. Metro, MARC, and light rail stations) and describe opportunities for Transit - Oriented Development (TOD). Will Plan strategies and projects contribute to jobs/housing balance or otherwise provide a mix of land uses that can be expected to reduce reliance on single-occupancy automobiles? (If transit or TOD is not applicable in your community, all points in this section will be based on questions 1 and 3) (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City of District Heights is in close proximity to large transportation centers such as Metro stops which offer service throughout the DC, MD, and VA area. District Heights main transport center is the "Park and Ride" where residents can catch buses which will take them to the nearest Metro Stop, the Addison Road Station.

The main concentration for transit-orientated development is increasing the walkability of our commercial district by installing sidewalks. Increasing the walkability of this district will mean that residents will depend less on single-occupancy automobiles to shop in our commercial area, they will have the option of taking the bus or walking to this area as sidewalks would be available for their safe use.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The City of District Heights is proud to be in a location that provides itself with plenty of prime transportation opportunities. The key stakeholders in the implementation of the transportation plan for the City are: The City Manager, the City's Urban Planner, and a partnership between the Department of Public Works, and the Recreation Department.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

F. Coordinating and Leveraging Policies and Investment

(1) What specific steps will the Sustainable Community Workgroup take to coordinate policies and funding streams to remove barriers to investment and maximize and increase funding in the proposed Sustainable Community Area? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Sustainable Community Workgroup believes that an increase in funding for the proposed Sustainable Community Area will greatly benefit the community and its priority development goals. The group is taking the necessary steps such as, drafting a Sustainable Community Action Plan, partaking in Business Development activities, organizing local business owners, and educating the public on funding and grant opportunities. These actions taken by the group are actively removing the barriers to investment in the Sustainable Community.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) How is the proposed Sustainable Community Plan consistent with other existing community or comprehensive plans? *(Answer Space 4,000 characters)*

The Sustainable Community Action Plan is consistent with community goals and the direction the Mayor and Commissioners would like to take the City. The City does not have a standing comprehensive or community plan, but would consider drafting one in the future.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) How will the Plan help leverage and/or sustain more private sector investments? *(Answer Space 4,000 characters)*

Having a Sustainable Community Plan is a great way to show business owners and residents that the City Management and Elected Officials have a view for the future of the City, not just an immediate view of the present. Having a comprehensive plan shows forward thinking and longevity to business and residents. This plan is not only a recruiting tool for business, but also a way to show current and future residents that the City is committed to upkeep and development.

V. PROGRESS MEASURES

For the Plan parts of section IV (A through F):

(1) List the specific outcomes that the Plan seeks to produce. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

- The main goal of the Action Plan is to produce the outcome of a revitalized commercial district, complete with streetscape and façade improvements.
- The plan seeks to engage the community further in a “green” lifestyle by embracing and implementing programs such as the community garden, walkable trails, and the District Heights Energy Efficiency Program.
- The plan seeks to increase the amount of small businesses in the community. Including supporting existing local small business efforts and recruiting new business to the area. This can be done through the help of commercial district revitalization as an improved commercial district will increase a higher quality of renter for the property owners of the commercial district.
- The plan seeks to embrace Smart Growth principles for the community.
- The plan seeks to improve the opportunities for lower-income residents by giving them access to grant funds which may help improve their homes.
- The plan seeks to improve and maintain existing cultural and recreational amenities offered to citizens of the City.
- The plan seeks to help educate youth through improving and maintaining existing youth programs and facilities in the City’s recreational center, as well as, seeking grant fund’s for additional opportunities.
- The plan seeks to continue the positive path the Police Department has embraced of reduced crime in recent years.
- The plan seeks to outreach and engage existing community business owners over the upcoming years into a well organized and prosperous business community.
- The plan seeks grow the tax base by attracting residents with higher levels of disposable income to the area.

V. PROGRESS MEASURES

(2) And, list the specific benchmarks that will be used to measure progress toward these outcomes. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Benchmarks show that progress is being made towards a specific goal. The goals listed above show that the community is well organized and prepared to move forward. The benchmarks used will be: continue to seek funding opportunities that allow the community to better serve its citizens through programs such as energy efficiency, commercial redevelopment, home upgrades, and green and sustainable living initiatives. Additionally, the City is proud of its recent development of new programs and initiatives and wishes to continue to strengthen its existing structures. As a fully developed community strengthening existing structures and improving programming are priority.

REPLACE THIS PAGE WITH
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT
RESOLUTIONS

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY APPLICATION
DISCLOSURE AUTHORIZATION AND CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned authorizes the Department of Housing and Community Development (the “Department”) to make such inquiries as necessary, including, but not limited to, credit inquiries, in order to verify the accuracy of the statements made by the applicant and to determine the creditworthiness of the applicant.

In accordance with Executive Order 01.01.1983.18, the Department advises you that certain personal information is necessary to determine your eligibility for financial assistance. Availability of this information for public inspection is governed by Maryland’s Access to Public Records Act, State Government Article, Section 10-611 et seq. of the Annotated Code of Maryland (the “Act”). This information will be disclosed to appropriate staff of the Department or to public officials for purposes directly connected with administration of this financial assistance program for which its use is intended. Such information may be shared with State, federal or local government agencies, which have a financial role in the project. You have the right to inspect, amend, or correct personal records in accordance with the Act.

The Department intends to make available to the public certain information regarding projects recommended for funding in the Sustainable Community Plan. The information available to the public will include the information in this application, as may be supplemented or amended. This information may be confidential under the Act. If you consider this information confidential and do not want it made available to the public, please indicate that in writing and attach the same to this application.

You agree that not attaching an objection constitutes your consent to the information being made available to the public and a waiver of any rights you may have regarding this information under the Act.

I have read and understand the above paragraph. Applicant’s Initials: _____

Anyone who knowingly makes, or causes to be made, any false statement or report relative to this financial assistance application, for the purposes of influencing the action of the Department on such application, is subject to immediate cancellation of financial assistance and other penalties authorized by law.

The undersigned hereby certifies that the Sustainable Communities Plan or Project(s) proposed in this Application can be accomplished and further certifies that the information set herein and in any attachment in support hereof is true, correct, and complete to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

Authorized Signature

Print Name and Title

Date