



# CONVERSATION CORPS



# July 2015 – Affordability

---



*What does affordable living mean to you and what is standing in the way for you to achieve the quality of life you desire?*

- *11 Conversations*
- *48 Voices*

## ***Characteristics of an affordably community:***

- *Strategic Growth*
- *Adequate Housing Options*
- *Reasonable Property Taxes*
- *Reliable Transportation Options*
- *High Standards of Education*
- *Diverse Workforce Opportunities*
- *Accessibility to Services & Resources*
- *Government Efficiency*

# Strategic Growth

---



- *“Big City” Problems*
- *How do we catch up?*
- *Concern that people who can’t afford to stay will leave and fear of what more growth will do*
- *Strong optimism that we’re on the right track and have ability to develop creative solutions*

# Adequate Housing Options

---



- *Conflicting views on density*
- *More low-income housing and mixed-income developments*
- *Affordable Rent/Rent Control*
- *Creative options*
  - *Co-ops*
  - *Micro units*
- *Flexibility in zoning restrictions*

# Reasonable Property Taxes

---



- *Great concern for growing property taxes, especially for disabled, poor, vets & elderly*
- *Why isn't growth paying for itself?*
- *Need for incentives/caps for long-term residents*

# Reliable Transportation Options

---



- *Cost of fuel*
- *Ability to be a 1-car family*
- *More options*
- *Affordable for most needy*
- *Bike lanes*

# High Standards for Education

---



- *Will help us define the community we want*
- *Quality of schools/Equitable access*
- *Better career and technical programs*



# Diverse Workforce Opportunities

---



- *Higher wages for struggling families*
- *Incentivize employers to help address affordability*
- *Concern regarding bringing in outside talent*
- *Less corporate incentives and more support of small, local businesses*

# Accessibility to Services & Resources

---



- *Work*
- *Grocery Stores*
- *Restaurants*
- *Nature*
- *Community Services*

# Government Efficiency

---



- *Consolidation of services*
- *City policies that impact cost of living and quality of life*
- *Transparency regarding spending on both city and county level*
- *Listen to community input*