

## Context

### **September 24, 2009 Five Cities Regional Issues meeting Fairview City Hall**

Presentation on public safety and citizen involvement that proposed that *by working better together, forges a framework for a practical collaborative program that utilizes current resources to; engage citizens, increase community policing and maximize our efforts.*

*This requires and agenda for citizens wherein;*

- |   |                                             |   |                                   |
|---|---------------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| ⊙ | Volunteers are immediately connected        | ⊙ | Graffiti is reduced               |
| ⊙ | Emergency management capacity increases     | ⊙ | Business is supported             |
| ⊙ | Parks, trails and open spaces are monitored | ⊙ | Youth crime is reduced            |
| ⊙ | Greater links to schools are created        | ⊙ | Inter-city communication enhanced |

Cities appointed one elected official and engaged one citizen to participate in the task force that would meet four times by January 2010. This group would work to design a program for community livability and public safety that is strategic, relevant, sustainable and effective for the East Metro Region.

## History-Background

Greater Gresham Area Prevention Partnership [GGAPP] is a community drug and alcohol prevention coalition designed to serve the suburban East Multnomah Co. that includes three school districts serving Gresham, Troutdale, Fairview, Wood Village, parts of north Clackamas County and unincorporated Multnomah County. The goals of the coalition are to **reduce substance abuse among youth and, over time, among adults**. Additionally the coalition seeks to **increase and strengthen collaboration** among the East Multnomah County's schools, private nonprofit agencies and Federal, State, and local governments.

## Issue

GGAPP community coalition leaders and members determined specific areas of concern impacting the community. They seek to implement environmental change strategies that will influence community norms and decrease substance abuse rates. *“Environmental strategies incorporate prevention efforts aimed at changing or influencing community conditions, standards, institutions, structures, systems and policies.”* The coalition **identified crime prevention and citizen engagement** as key components of a larger multi-pronged approach to substance abuse reduction and greater community livability and approached the cities.

## Process

Task force members met four times for two hours. The mapped / facilitated discussion focused on the premise, identified; a vision, the skills and tools needed and the possibilities for shared effort. They tested their assumptions, reviewed their options and determined the most effective strategy.

## Goals /Vision

*“The community is at a cross roads now due to the economy and the resulting **choices people make**; drugs, crime, violence etc. there is a lot of pressure on communities.”*

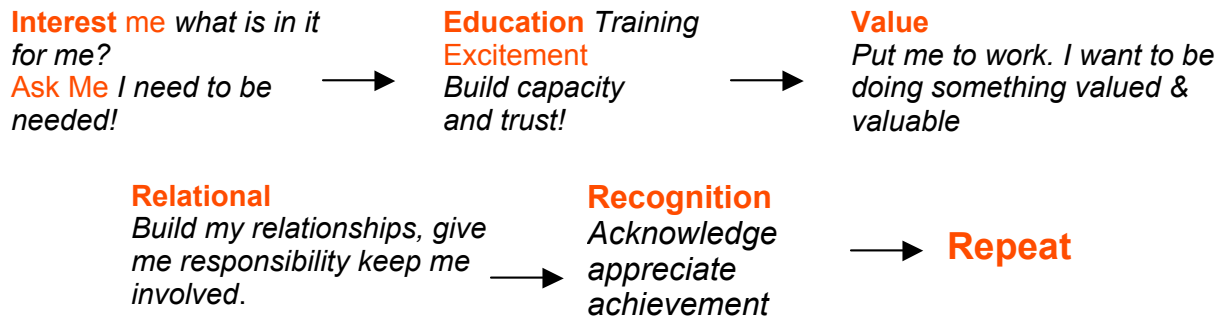
- |   |                                   |   |                                     |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| • | Something Transformative          | • | Improves lives of residents         |
| • | Small pieces people can grasp     | • | Worthy of positive media attention  |
| • | Inclusive and welcome to everyone | • | Obtainable –doable- measurable      |
| • | Noticeable and significant        | • | Business-Residential (affects both) |
|   |                                   | • | Sustainable                         |

**Outcome**

**United East Metro Livable Communities**

*“We must inspire people. There needs to be a new identity / name for the area that speaks to perceptions about their sense of place and community.”*

*Discussion of Trauma Incident Response & the Science of Volunteer Involvement*



*“We need volunteers”*

**East Metro Livability Communities Workshop:** *One day citizen involvement training designed and implemented to increase civic engagement through greater understanding, networking and learning. Curriculum is designed to include the basics of how communities in the East Metro Region function and work together. New residents, newly elected officials and citizens would be invited. Former elected officials could participate as presenters and guides. Citizens might participate in learning about and discussing one or more of the following:*

- ⊙ City Government 101; councils, structures, systems and services
- ⊙ Community Policing 101; Crime Prevention, signage, reporting, laws and strategies
- ⊙ Map your neighborhood exercises as a precursor to Emergency Management efforts
- ⊙ Oregon Tax structure, local budgeting process
- ⊙ Tour of parks and greenways to build stewardship and increase access
- ⊙ Presentations by schools districts, Churches and Social Services to expand community.

It is envisioned that after the academy volunteers would then be eligible and prepared to work on and engage in:

- |                               |                         |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Neighborhood Watch programs   | Graffiti Response Teams |
| Citizen Patrol Programs       | Parks volunteers        |
| General community involvement | Schools                 |

*“Education is crucial – we need to change the view that education is a bad thing to pay for and work toward a more positive feeling. E.g. Could Mt Hood Community College be a University? Can we expand the discourse to include these types of ideas?”*

*“No one wants to be a part of a failure, so everyone here is seeking success. We are in this for the right reasons. Doing hard work is not always easy.”*

**Mt Hood Leadership Academy:** *A multi-week intensive designed to work from the EMLC Workshop and in cooperation with MT Hood Community college, local business and civic organizations. The program would seek to encourage and train leaders to engage in board seats, elected office, committees and other leadership roles in the community. Delivered in an intensive cohort format, with professional presenters, participants learn about and discuss one or more of the following:*

- Public Speaking Team Building Work Life Balance Leadership

Civic Engagement  
Networking

Local Economy  
Boardsmanship

Social Services  
Oregon Tax Structure

Schools  
Local Issues

It is envisioned that city committees, panels, non-profit and school boards, PACs and general community based programs would gain greater momentum and sustainability. One key piece of this effort is that each cohort would manage an annual or semi annual **United East Metro Livable Communities Recognition Program**. Regional in nature it would showcase efforts such as Citizen Involvement, Neighborhood Watch, Park Volunteers, landscape and building design, environmental clean-ups and community events. The benefits of celebrating individual, community and business contributions include providing recognition a forum for increased local leadership capacity.

**Resources needed:** City staff time, volunteers, public safety staff, building use, shared efforts to build sponsorship (private funding) shared outreach efforts and supported collaboration with business, civic organizations and non-profits.

**Recommendation:** Utilize current resources to explore academy models and determine feasibility of implementation within one year.

*“Whatever this group decides to tackle – **communications are critical** we are in the age of technology and public relations is a very important part of moving an initiative forward and having a flow of accurate information”*

- ANDERSON            Scott    Chief Police
- CLARK                Mark    Councilor WV
- EATWELL            Dave    Econ Dev
- GALL                 Joe      Fairview City Manager
- HARRINGTON       Cathy   Staff City of Gresham
- KREAMIER          Dan     Troutdale
- RITZ                  Sheila   City Manager WV
- SHAW                Jorgan   Troutdale Citizen
- WHITE                Glenn   Troutdale Council
- WIDMARK            David    Gresham Council
- YORK                  Margaret WV Citizen

## **Core Discussions**

**MTG 1** - Agreed to a set of basic group rules as particularly important because they would be bridging potential silos and issues of ‘territory’. There was a brief discussion of the need to maintain autonomy among the cities and yet the need to work cooperatively. There was expressed concern that the City of Gresham was not represented as an issue of fairness and in ensuring that their ‘big city’ issues were considered.

**MTG 2** -Determined the benefits of the communities working together as a way of building shared expertise. It can be more effective / efficient and the result can be a safer community. It can expand opportunities for more ‘new’ ideas, save money / resources. It can unite community and by involving the faith community, virtually expand the term community. This effort can lay the ground work for more ambitious efforts by serving as an as example. It was important that the work be efficient, effective, transparent, and sustainable. The need for outcomes that were implement-able, obtainable, measurable and relevant was included.

Weaknesses are that the Cities have different needs and priorities, with NO resources to do anything, no grant funding in place now. There is the issue of trust between communities and the negative perceptions (which may just be perceptions and not truths). Varied traditions, standards, lack of time, more volunteers (Gresham) vs. fewer volunteers (Wood Village). The political will and administrative support for implementation is crucial and influenced by communications between policy leaders, administrations, staffs.

Dangers of doing nothing are simply that things get worse. The group determined that the danger of nothing happening seemed remote based upon the characteristics of the people in the room. “Positive thinkers”

**MTG 3** - Listed programs and related services from all current crime prevention programs and community engagement strategies. TF identified ten programs to consider for future shared effort, and (some level of), partnership or collaboration. Specific communications tools and shared strategies for the work were also identified.

**MTG 4** – In review of key services with potential for greater collaboration, two significant service areas emerged. Based upon all the prior discussions, taking in to consideration the vision, needs, benefits, constraints and challenges previously identified and reviewed the TF closed with a proposal for working on two linked strategies.

