

**College/Seminary Focus Area Task Force  
Meeting Notes for February 14, 2007**

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**Community Development Programs**

Vicki Manson, Development Administrator in the City's CD Department, reviewed the housing programs the City currently offers and some options being looked at as part of the City's budget process. At this point, the City has a rehab program for owner-occupied homes in this area with no income restrictions. The maximum amount available is \$25,000 per home. The City is looking at tax abatements for people who purchase rehab certain qualified property in the form of a property tax freeze for 10 years. There currently is no program for investor owners in the Focus Area.

Joe Owen asked if the City owns the properties where it demolishes buildings. Vicki responded that in most cases in this neighborhood we do not because they are being done through the Fast Track system which does not require us to own the property. In response to further questions, she said that the City has made the decision not to sell any of the properties it does own in the Focus Area until this plan is complete so we can be sure that they are being used in a way that complements the plan. This Task Force can certainly advise the staff on what these properties should be used for.

**Issues/Problems in the Focus Area**

Ginny Gregory explained that in addition to knowing what our assets are in the neighborhood, as outlined at an earlier meeting, we also need to know what the issues and problems are. The basic approach of the plan is to address those issues, in many cases by building on the assets. After these were identified, those attending the meeting were asked to identify what they considered to be the five most critical issues. The results are shown in the table on the following page.

**Surveys**

Ginny indicated that the City had mailed out surveys to 200 people and had so far received about 25 back. She will turn these over to Health Systems Research at the end of the week for tabulation and analysis.

**Next meeting**

**Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM  
510 Seminary Street**

