

*E. 66TH STREET  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT  
DATA*

Data Compilation from March-June 2020

*E. 66th Street TLCI Design Update and Implementation Plan*

*Twelve Literary Arts with Daniel Gray-Kontar and Lexy Lattimore*

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## Youth Session #1

March 27, 2020

### VISION FOR A NEW E. 66TH STREET

#### Feel

- The street should be a safe zone similar to the “Safe Zone Sundays” idea at Kerusch Park
- Coming together of children
- Organized cookouts and gatherings
- No one is left out
- Dedicate the street to different neighborhoods in the ward so that everyone feels they are a part and no one feels left out. (ie. “Hough Day” “St. Clair Day”, “Wade Park Day”, “Superior Day”)
- We all know where Little Italy is, where Chinatown is ... this should feel like “Black Avenue”
- A place where kids have things to do even in the wintertime
- The importance of creating a feeling where everybody comes together as one.
- A street for families (the babies and the ladies)
- Athletics

#### Look

- ★ Murals/billboards with great leaders
- ★ Tables for dominoes, chess, card games
- ★ Spaces for games of hopscotch, and those little playgrounds with the little horse with the springs on them
- ★ **Salvation Army or something similar is a must - skating, boxing, basketball tournaments, football, free lunches**
- ★ Playgrounds
- ★ Make the street like E. 4th so **no cars can come through**
- ★ Mounted Barbecue pits
- ★ Not natural grass, but turf
- ★ Basketball courts
- ★ Lots of colors
- ★ Positive words and affirmations posted throughout the block
- ★ Present-day and historical leaders made visible through murals and billboards
- ★ Slushy machines, heated lamps for the winter
- ★ It should look elegant, not like a concrete jungle

- ★ A lot of art
- ★ A lot of places for kids.

### **GUIDING STATEMENTS:**

Begin with video clip at 15:00 - 19:00

“Growing up without your mother and father is kind of hard. So I love the cookouts and the gatherings with the community.”

“I watched the transition. The Salvation Army is my most memorable place. The moment they shut that down is the moment that everything changed on Hough. And we have to let that set in. The moment they took [us] away from the place where people used to dwell and get strong and skate and box, then that resulted in them doing something else, they didn’t have nowhere to go.”

“Well ... it’s cameras on the street, and everything is digitized, but people still do what they do. As crazy as forensics is, as crazy as how many cameras there is, no matter how many cops there is, people still do what they do. Then do you close it off or do you keep it open? There’s pros and cons to both. It’s a mindset right now. It’s the mindset of the people that has to be changed.”

“To make it safer if we build Hough the same way they got E. 4th where they got all them bars at so you can’t even drive a car through there - you know what I mean? There hasn’t been a murder down there yet. It might be a little fight, a little scuffle, but that place is so safe and they have all the bars and everything on both sides. What we would do on our side is we would dedicate that street whether it’s weekly or monthly to different hoods in that ward. So it’s one neighborhood this month, and another neighborhood the next month. Nobody gets left out.”

We have to make this street into our Mecca, our Jerusalem. We have to make it about the babies and the ladies - especially the babies. We need to keep this about them, If we keep this about the babies we can’t lose and it’s up to us to bring that to life.”

“I really don’t know how to make stuff better but I want to know how because I can’t even be around half of my family members without the other half being mad because both of their cousins beefin, and I want somebody to talk to about it because I don’t know who to talk to and how to get it out right.”

## **ROUGH TRANSCRIPTION:**

Safe zone Sunday creating a safe zone with our leaders and most influential people. The Giants are very excited to come together and do it again. It's such a memory. I keep seeing it in my head. I see it getting bigger. I see a mural with all of the great leaders. I see the coming together of children. I see athletics. They are waiting for us to let them know that it's safe to come outside.

My grandmother grew up on E. 66th. I used to like being over there, but once my grandma was sitting on the porch and shot in the head I don't go over there. Whenever I go, I just wonder who could shoot someone's grandmother in the head and think it's ok? I just don't like being around there anymore.

I stayed on 47th and Payne. I've been here since I was six months years old. I'm now 18. But I've spent a lot of my time in Ward 7 with Basheer. He had everyone come together as one. He never left anyone out. There was always something of every age to do something in the community. Growing up without your mother and father was kind fo hard. I love the cookouts and the gatherings. Everything I do, I do it with the community.

Born and raised on 66th and Hough. I watched the transition The Salvation Army is my most memorable place. The moment they shut that down is the moment that everything changed on Hough. And we have to let that set in. The moment they took Young Isaiah away the place where people used to dwell and get strong and skate and box, then that resulted in them doing something else, they didn't have nowhere to go. So The Salvation Army was the staple for us. We had boxing, skating, free lunch, in house basketball leagues. I miss being able to walk from Hough to Wade Park without no incidents. That's why I was so passionate about connecting both sides, I moved to Wade Park in 1994. But there wasn't enough OG's that saw the vision that I had. Hough is a beautiful place. I always wanted a place that was called "Black Avenue" We know where Little Italy at. We know where Chinatown at. But we don't know where Black Avenue at, the place where everybody can play hopscotch, tables out there playing dominoes, barbecues, tables out there. The one strip where everybody is connected. Hough is a beautiful place in my memory. Nobody was ever worried about dying in the streets. But we dropped the ball with the young. We didn't give them anything to do.

I grew up on 65th and Hough. I used to love going to The Salvation Army too. That's where I spent the first 14 years of my life. For at least five hours out of the day I was there, from like 4-9 playing basketball and I used to box. The day they shut the Salvation Army down, I told Basheer this, the day they shut Salvation Army down, that same day my cousin got shot and that

sparked the fire that led to everything else. If we get more rec centers in the community, then the violence will slow down and it will give people stuff to do.

I grew up on the 79th and Superior end. I've been over here my whole life. I watched the whole change. I was saddened by when the Salvation Army shut down. My sister used to work there. And I remember when that tragic moment happened when the girl's grandmother was shot. And I definitely send condolences to her family. But as far as that 66th end, coming from us up here, we always had a good relationship back when we was younger. Even though we used to fight, go to school down there, you might fight or get jumped, but it wasn't no killing going on back then. It wasn't like if you get into today you might die tomorrow. What it has come to now. Stuff is just a risk. And actually that's a good neighborhood still. E. 66th, that's a good neighborhood. The whole neighborhood is still good I'm walking down the street right now. Oe E 79th. Right now.

My question is walking how do you feel?

Me personally, I have no issues with nobody. So I'm alright.

But that's an age difference too. A little 15, 16 years old young one, we are already traumatized by things we should have seen that we shouldn't have seen, you know life become a movie at like 6, 7 8 years old. You see the needles getting used, you see grandma house, moving already. You watching movies but this is really what's going on in your household. Like it's a script or something and it's not but this is what you had to go through, you wasn't asked upon when you was born you was just born into it. You know what can happen. You know how a car can pull up alongside. You know how its initiations - "oh its a perfect time to go earn your stripes" type move". So much happen. Where it come from like tiires screeching, shots blasting and it's a pulloff. And it ain't no explanation for it. I done seen guys ain't into no violence - just walking down the street like that - you know how you saying you ain't got no issue but it become a issue. You know what I'm saying? Innocent though. Me personally, I'm from Wade Park, so when I go over there? It's a dark cloud. Period. It could be a pickup game and shots rang out. When you there you got to know how to get in and get out. And like now, everybody be in like tinted windows. So if you come from where I come from it could be a granny behind the tinted windows, but you looking at it with caution. You can't enjoy a normal day without being on survival tactics just due to what you've been exposed to.

How can we create a safer street?

Well ... it's cameras on the street, and everything is digitized, but people still do what they do. As crazy as forensics is, as crazy as how many cameras there is, no matter how many cops there is, people still do what they do. Then do you close it off or do you keep it open? There's pros and cons to both. It's a mindset right now. It's the mindset of the people that has changed.

He's right about the mind frame of the youth right now and the people that don't care behind that. To make it safer if we build Hough the same way they got E. 4th where they got all them

bars at so you can't even drive a car through there - you know what I mean? There hasn't been a murder down there yet. It might be a little fight, a little scuffle, but that place is so safe and they have all the bars and everything on both sides. What we would do on our side is we would dedicate that street whether its weekly or monthly to different hoods in that ward. So it's one neighborhood this month, and another neighborhood the next month. "Hey ... you know St. Clair day gon' be on Black Avenue". We dedicate the block to everybody that way people don't feel left out in the Ward. Secondly, we have a chain of command, so that we can figure out the ways to squash the beefs so we end the violence. We can form it just like they formed downtown. It's very very possible.

Its' nothing for me to get my crew and get with your crew to come on one accord. We are getting to an age where beefing is corny. We are living in a time of a gold rush and we are losing money because of this beef. We need to locate the cancer and get it out. We can't say that we want to be cancer-free but we're smoking on a cancer stick. We have to make this street into our Mecca, our Jerusalem. We have to make it about the babies and the ladies - especially the babies. We need to keep this about them, If we keep this about the babies we can't lose and it's up to us to bring that to life.

I see barbecue grills mounted. I see those little playgrounds with the little horse with the springs on em, you used to rock back and forth on em I don't even see those no more. I really see artificial grass because we don't do too good with bugs and mosquitos. I see it looking soft and elegant instead of like a concrete jungle, because how you plant your feet is how you feel. I see it elegant. Yes ... more lights. More cameras. It's hard to say, but I see a cop car just sitting out there. I see so many billboards of black inventors because a lot of children don't know that there were great black inventors. But if you put the inventors next to Gucci Man. You break him down and show the similarities between him and George Washington Carver. Then you got T.I and he's standing next to WEB DuBois and you break them down. They are going to stop and look at the rapper, but you can't deny the black man who is right next to him. Murals and words - lots of words.

Affirmations. Yeah. And a lot of colors.

I see a lot of places for kids. And even in the wintertime, have the barbecue pits out there. Slushy machines, heated lamps for the winter. It's going to all be expensive but it's better to pay with the money than to pay with our blood.

A lot of light, a lot of colors, a lot of affirmations, and definitely a lot of art. I like the whole ice cream and lemonade stand idea. Police parked there just to keep the tension down.

We just have to get the people aboard

I really don't know how to make stuff better but I want to know how because I can't even be around half of my family members without the other half being mad because both of their

cousins beefin, and I want somebody to talk to about it because I don't know who to talk to and how to get it out right.

Yes ... the streets need to be lit more.

I told you all before that I want to be a 911 dispatcher. I took that class in school and of course, we have to wear the uniforms so I get really offended sometimes when people be asking me why I want to be an officer and how that's being a snitch. And I'm like "why are ya'll trying to do this to me and you know this is what I want to be?" I'm just always around negative energy. It be the people around me who got in trouble by the police, so with me wanting to be an officer - I just don't like being called a snitch. This is what I want to be in life and you all are just bringing me down. What's the point? It's not friends. It's like family members. It's all my family members' energy.



## Youth Session #2

April 24, 2020

### VISION FOR A NEW E. 66TH STREET

#### Feel

- The community coming together
- A safer community
- Block party/carnival/parade feeling
- Youth and seniors coming together to understand one another better
- Culturally-responsive arts
- Black-owned businesses
- A service-industry sector
- Businesses that are also open later
- Bike rides
- Creating familiarity with neighbors
- Greater opportunities for youth and families - creating a street where you don't have to go outside of the neighborhood to find opportunities to grow
- Greater access to League Park
- Youth organizing events and gatherings for the neighborhood
- Connecting E. 66th to E. 79th and E. 93rd
- Youth need to feel more connected to Fatima
- Improve Communication

#### Look

- ❖ Barbecue grills
- ❖ Bike and hiking trails
- ❖ Creating a connection between E. 66th and the rest up Hough (79th and 93rd)
- ❖ Opening up League Park Center to the community so they feel they have access
- ❖ Investing in Fatima so that Fatima is more equipped to create and sustain more youth programming (teen talks, organizing meetings between youth and seniors, arts)
- ❖ An Arts center or complex for the neighborhood
- ❖ A new Salvation Army
- ❖ Outdoor sports
- ❖ Signage on E. 66th and surrounding neighborhoods
- ❖ Park benches and tables
- ❖ Regular consistent street maintenance (at least once per month) after street is complete
- ❖ Lots of light - the street is currently very dark and does not feel safe, especially at night
- ❖ Socially-relevant artwork (murals)
- ❖ More intentional connection between MidTown Tech Hive and the neighborhood
- ❖ A very walkable street - a place people will be inspired not to drive
- ❖ Lots of trash cans
- ❖ Repurpose or tear down abandoned buildings

- ❖ Workout Equipment
- ❖ Chess and checkers sets
- ❖ Bicycles

## **GUIDING STATEMENTS:**

Start with 1:09:18 - 1:17:30

When my community came together and had like a big carnival outside. Everybody was invited and nobody was left out. There was no violence, everybody was just enjoying themselves. Everybody was out barbecuing.

The Mighty Zulu Kings, which is one of the founding groups of break dancing, some of them were here and they were just kind of talking to the youth about dance and what it can do for you because they had been put in situations where dance gave them the opportunity to travel across the world to display the gifts that they were given. That was something that really grabbed my attention because I feel like there is a huge separation between the youth and the older generations and I feel like any opportunity for them to come together and just understand where each other is coming from is a good thing.

So one of my favorite memories - it was the summertime. So people had come out and there were big screen tv's set up and they brought food and people was barbecuing, it was fun, they had popcorn machines. Everybody was just partying - everybody had parked their cars - outside - it was a projector, that's what it's called. And everybody was just watching the movie. It was when Black Panther had just come out, and we were just getting the movie.

We need more black people owning real estate and there need to be more black-owned businesses. And more so in terms of service [industry] stuff. Because I know that when I was a kid, there was really no daycares over here. And Fatima now is the only rec center, but even Fatima isn't what it used to be. It used to be that and the Salvation Army down over there in the projects, and Fatima. But we need more businesses and places that will attract more people who are young. I mean ... put a corner store over here. I know [people] that want snacks. I myself, like snacks. So .. just more corner stores, just things that will give young people a reason to come here. I look around and there is no reason for young people to come here. There's nothing really to do. So it's like ... give people something to do. If you give people something to do they will be over here. They will be over here.

I remember when I was a kid that's when Hough really started getting dangerous. Like 5 all the way up until I was 14. And I personally do not know why. All I knew is that I didn't want to go outside. After all of my friends moved I did not want to go outside at all, because I didn't know nobody. And by this time I had almost already got jumped, by this time I'm hearing gunshots all of the time, I'm seeing people get shot by this time. And there were no opportunities for me. I mean, there was, but not in the community. I had to go outside of the community to get those opportunities. So that's one. And two: the whole fear was because I didn't know nobody. So now, I realize how that had an effect on me. For the past two years, I've been trying to get to know people. I've been watching old films from the 90s, the 80s, and the 70s when niggas would just go across the street knowing everybody and I'm like "what? That's crazy! You're outside? And you feel safe? What? That's crazy!" So it's just like ... I want that, you know? So that's where I started forming that dream. And one thing about being familiar with people is also understanding people. Cuz one thing that happened for me is that I really have been thinking about people who go through worse than me. Because I've seen some stuff, but I haven't been through it. And I know people who have been through it. For example, my nephew used to live in the Woody Wood projects up on 73rd and Hough and I remember many times when he was like "my sister's car got shot" and he would just be hanging out with the kids there, and I can just imagine what he saw growing up, and I'm just like "dang." But it's not just that, he also doesn't have a stable father figure. So I'm like "dang" if we're not here for my nephew he's going to go through something way worse than us. And so now, I'm thinking about all of these other people near Thurgood, really and over in the projects near 55th as well who have gone through stuff that's way worse than me - and what gives me the right to be scared of them and I don't even know them. So once I started to understand that, I really started to be more

familiar with people. Cuz it's like I don't know what you been through, so I'm gonna just take a chance. And if you set me up or do some weird stuff, then I guess God wasn't on my side then. So being familiar is very important to make the community feel more safer.

To make the neighborhood safe really is about the opportunities that you give people because you leave it up to them. If you give it to them then there is no way around it. Once you have the opportunity there is no more crying that you don't have opportunity. The second thing to make the neighborhood safe - we need more teen youth meetings. Like, we had some teen youth meetings where we was learning how to approach police officers. We need more teen youth meetings on how people talk to each other. Not just officers - but that's a good example because when officers go home and take their badges off, they are still just people at the end of the day. So we need more communication. When we go into neighborhoods and they are not familiar with us, people get jumped, people get shot - people are really afraid to walk the streets these days. In my neighborhood, you would have to get people comfortable with coming outside in our neighborhood before they will move to another neighborhood because some kids don't even feel safe in their own neighborhoods. So if you get kids to feel comfortable coming out to play in their own playgrounds, parents will be cool and not complaining. Once we do that then we can see if they will be cool with traveling somewhere else. Those are just a couple of [simple] things.

I want to stress having things that are over here that are actually open. I know that when I used to work downtown and coming home a lot, I would take the bus a lot before I could Uber, and one of the things that was really nervewracking for me walking home from my bus stop is there is nothing open between here and Euclid. I mean, there is Gallucci's there on 66th but that's closed by 6. So there is nothing really on 66th that would be open, even if it's just to have checks and balances. Once people are more comfortable then people can feel more comfortable looking out for each other. Once you have that, then you can have what there used to be in the old days where people can really look out for each other. If you have more things that are open and more things that are open later, then you start to have more people who can look out for each other. But I also think it is really good to have more community things. I just remember how good that was for me when I was younger, seeing so many people from my neighborhood and getting to know them. I saw people in all kinds of roles doing the New Day in Hough Parade. I saw judges who looked like me, police officers, firefighters, it just gave me a stronger sense of humanity. And that will help bridge the gap with the older generation here. Because there is primarily older people living here. Once you get past 79th, it's a whole different - it's like two different Houghs. So I think being able to bridge the gap between those two areas will help a whole lot in solving the problems in our community.

There is not really anything with light along the way to my house. I mean ... we're just talking about walking down a dark street at 10 pm, you know what I'm saying? I mean that's the reality of a lot of situations. So if we had more businesses open, people will have more things to do but there will also be more light and more life. It's all a chain effect.

In my neighborhood, you would have to get people comfortable with coming outside in our neighborhood before they will move to another neighborhood because some kids don't even feel safe in their own neighborhoods. So if you get kids to feel comfortable coming out to play in their own playgrounds, parents will be cool and not complaining. Once we do that then we can see if they will be cool with traveling somewhere else.

And they took a lot of our benches and tables that we had around the parks or near the parks, so there is nowhere to sit or be comfortable in our neighborhoods. And why are our streetlights so dim? A lot of the streetlights are never changed or they don't work, so you're just walking down a dark street. We need our community to look the right way. When you come outside you need to feel like you can come out and walk. People don't want to walk at all, that's why everybody gets in their car. They won't go nowhere unless they in their car. Sometimes you just want to be like "I don't want to be in my car today, I just want to walk." You want to walk without somebody approaching you or pulling up beside you in their car.

They used to fix the grass, put the wood chips down, come clean the park, and they would come clean the neighborhood because you see trash everywhere you go. Our community looks like we are just there doing

anything. It's like you can see trash, graffiti, big holes in the ground, cracks - we need our stuff to look presentable to the people, as if somebody wanted to buy into our community.

I think it can probably be as simple as trash cans. It's that conscious thing of like .. Ok, you're done eating a bag of chips, but you look around, and there is no trash can around. So what are you going to do? You're going to throw it on the ground - well, most people are. I'm that weird person that's going to keep the bag in my pocket until I find a trash can. But if you have a trash can on the corner, what's going to stop you from taking 8 steps to the corner and throwing it away?

When I think about renovating 66th, I think about when I was living in LA because in LA I was living in a place that looked worse, to be honest. They had a big old homeless community there, there is a lot of drug addiction there, and it's mad more dirty. It's so dirty that the little drains on the curb are clogged up, so when it rains there are just a bunch of trash puddles. But the one thing about LA is that you have art on the walls. And not just like a little tag, no, you have whole ass art. And that was really inspirational for me. It's really weird, it's like - it's really beautiful for me to think about it. It's like I'd be riding on my bus on the way to school and I'm seeing all of these people on the curb doing crack right in front of me, straight up, and then I look to the left and I'm focusing on all of this artwork on the wall. It gives me something to focus on. And not only that, but the artwork was inspirational, it wasn't something that was put up randomly, but they were showing public figures. Like, it's Martin Luther King up there, or it's Malcolm up there or it's like black love and black excellence I'm seeing up there. That was the thing that lifted me up in those situations. So I think those kinds of artworks would help how the neighborhood looks, but it would also help with opportunity. Cuz you're like "dang, I don't see no opportunity. You're walking down the street and it's dark, and it's like, you just see tags on the wall. But if you're walking down the street, and there's just a little bit of light, and you see a whole art piece that's inspiring you, that would not only make you feel safer but then you think to yourself "maybe I want to do something." That's another thing that I feel is important as well.

A lot of kids just don't feel safe playing around abandoned buildings. So if you have a street full of abandoned buildings, you wouldn't feel safe running down that street with your friends, because a lot of times crazy things go on inside those buildings, and you be fearful of that. We really need to unite the community and get to know each other more.

Not a lot of people care about what they do to the street, cuz there's a lot of trash. And if they could like keep the parks clean, like, when they do re-do the parks and stuff, they only half do it. It's like they don't put much effort into it, and they don't seem to care about what our community looks like anymore. And like when I was younger, I actually had a place to go, it was a recreation center, so it kept me busy all day. But now I can't even do that anymore. So we need another youth center where kids can go and feel safe instead of sitting in the house afraid to go outside.

I would say more things to do particularly in the League Park area - not just there, because I think there need to be more places in the neighborhood where young people feel they can go to do things - but I just remember in particular when that first opened up, it felt like all of Hough was there. All of Northeast Ohio was there, but it really felt like all of Hough was there, and it felt the way it used to feel when I was younger. There used to be a swimming pool, football teams - the park has been open for a few years, but there aren't really a lot of community things that go on there. And if we can tap into the Hough beyond 79th, that would be good, because people seem to know each other more there. And I'm at a bit of a disadvantage as far as that goes because here on 66th things are more chill. We're really not as connected with everybody. But up there, I think it will be big if we have more things like that here - and that directly tie into the youth there helping to organize it. It will give them more pride.

I guess more recreational stuff. It just feels like there is nothing at all. And more businesses. It just feels like you have to go outside of our community. So really, anything will be an improvement. We do have Fatima, but even that has been going downhill as far as building relationships with the younger generation.

We need to have more tables with benches. We used to have those at the park. Now, it's just a park. So there is nowhere to sit. There is nowhere for your mom to watch her kids unless she's standing up. So it's not comfortable coming outside. Who wants to stand there to watch them? It's not comfortable enough in our neighborhood to be out here.

I just feel like it's really dumb how there is a church on every single corner, and [people] claim to be Christian, but stuff is still going on how it is. Just to piggyback on Dion, not just do we need role models, but we have hella old people here, and honestly, if I'm being real, I don't think they give a [damn] about me. These old people, I don't know if they give a [damn] about me, for real. Because I remember my friend, Cameron, we was running from some dudes, and Cameron got jumped right next to a church while they were having an event outside. My dude was yelling for help. No one came. Niggas was in their house. It was a Saturday. No one came. I know that there's people in way worse situations that really don't think people give a damn about them. And because they don't think people give a damn about them, they just do whatever, you know? It's hard to really do something with your life if you feel like no one cares. So, what Dion is saying is big. You really have to reassure people that you care. And also, same thing with women too, you have to really reach out to women too because they didn't have fathers either. So we're all missing something, you know? We all were kind of deprived of something. And we really just need people to show us that we matter. Not everyone is strong enough or in the right environment to reassure themselves that they matter. Do you know how hard that is? It's not just events - like, I'm sitting here looking across the street right now, and this is a nice ass house. It's a nice ass house. And I know the people that live in there. And if you are living in that house, then you probably do something really important, you know what I'm saying? But I don't know what it is. The only things that we know in our community is the bad stuff. We don't know what's good in our community already. So I feel like we should just really pull that out of the community. Pull out these old [people] out they house and bring them to the kids so that they can actually show them something. Because they always be talking about it. They always be talking about "them kids do this, them kids do that" and I'm like "shut your old ass up and actually be there." [People] is all talk when it comes to that stuff. That's a real soft spot for me because like Tiyaana said, we really need to know what's good in our community. And I feel like if we put old people and adults in more positions to be role models if we put them into that call for action, I think that would be amazing.

I think that would be amazing. So that the events that we have would be surrounded around that. Not saying that it has be strict like, "we role models, and we're getting into some deep shit today." It don't even need to be that. It can be as simple as a movie, as simple as a block party with food and music, you know what I'm saying? One thing about hip hop and The Mighty Zulu Kings, and one thing about the hip hop community in Cleveland - the hip hop community was the first place where I found structure and that really changed my life. And that's why it changes a lot of people's lives - dance and extracurricular activities - those are the thing that introduces structure into many people's lives. And there is a natural way to do it. But I feel like we should pull from the resources that we already have, and pull from the people that are already here so that we can actually see the positivity that is already in Hough over there on 93rd and over there on Wade Park.

Or things as simple as if you want to go for a run putting workout equipment out, just a little small set of something where people can do pullups or a little bicycle so people can work on their legs and stuff like that, or putting benches and tables and chairs out, or putting out a chess and checker set so people can bring their own pieces to play chess and checkers because things as small as that can relate the older generation to the younger generation. Because not everybody has the mindset to go ask somebody how they got to become who they are. But when you see that person enough times, generally you're going to be curious enough to ask somebody. So if I keep seeing Mr. Johnson sitting playing chess and he's beating everybody, I might be that kid that's the hustler and I'll be like if I can put myself in a situation where I'm going to learn how to make money off of beating people in chess, I'm going to learn how to do it. It can be as simple as that. Recreation centers is something that's not a small task. Yes, these things can help, however, these things take time. So as far as things that can be fixed in a small amount of time, it's as simple as putting benches out or putting a trail in, or a community garden - and even reverting to things as simple as the trash cans - these things are small, but are big victories Because for example,

when this whole Coronavirus thing hit, you can build a hospital in 10 days. Okay, you can build a hospital in 10 days, but then half of it collapsed a week later because you didn't build it right.

We already have Rainey Institute, but we need arts that are empowering to the people that live there because the perception is that Rainey has gotten watered down. If you have art, it has to be empowering. Art asks open-ended questions, and that's something that people don't get asked a lot. When you're asked an open-ended question, that gives you the power. So that's why I feel like we need art institutions that are catered to the community it is based in because then the institution will know what questions to ask and how to empower the community. You can't just put Playhouse Square here because no one will go to it. So yeah .. art is mad important. Mad important.

## **ROUGH TRANSCRIPTION:**

### QUESTION 1:

Janae

I think a favorite memory of mine is **when my community came together and had like a big carnival outside. Everybody was invited and nobody was left out. There was no violence**, everybody was just enjoying themselves. Everybody was **out barbecuing**. That was the best time I can remember in my neighborhood.

Zay

I guess I'll keep it going. I believe it was about a year and a half ago, maybe two years ago, and I actually live on Star Avenue, so I'm right by 79th and 72nd - it's weird. But I believe it was two years ago where the people on our street **threw a block party here and people on Star and the surrounding streets came over** and it was pretty much the same idea where people were just enjoying each other's company, eating food, talking, laughing and having fun. The thing that really had my attention was that there was also - with me being a professional dancer - I'm interested in history and dance, and **The Mighty Zulu Kings, which is one of the founding groups of break dancing, some of them were here and they were just kind of talking to the youth** about dance and what it can do for you because they had been put in situations where dance gave them the opportunity to travel across the world to display the gifts that they were given. That was something that really grabbed my attention because **I feel like there is a huge separation between the youth and the older generations and I feel like any opportunity for them to come together and just understand where each other is coming from is a good thing**.

Tiyana

So one of my favorite memories - it was the summertime. So people had come out and there were **big screen tv's set up and they brought food and people was barbecuing**, it was fun, they had **popcorn machines**. Everybody was just partying - everybody had parked their cars - outside - **it was a projector**, that's what it's called. And everybody was just watching the movie. **It was when Black Panther had just come out, and we were just getting the movie**. Yeah.

Tyler

I was gonna go ahead and interject. Me and Keith we live on 66th and Hough. We've lived here pretty much since Keith was born, about 20 years almost. **One of the things I remember most was the New Day in Hough Parades**. I was told that it was to celebrate how far we've come since the riots. That's what I was told, I don't know. You know, you hear a lot of things. **But they always had the bike rides that went from Thurgood Marshall up there all the way down to 55th, and my dad was really big on us doing it. It was exciting growing up. When we first moved here there was a lot going on**. Like, community stuff. I just remember my dad always being like "alright, we about to get in the car" and we would just go to stuff like some Day Care Opening or anything. It was just always something going on. But it seems like as the years went by that kind of dwindled down. But **I've seen some**

resurgence with the Hough Vineyard, Chateau Hough, we've got that popping, and with League Park coming. But you know, they've been trying to get League Park popping for years, and once that came it's like "what's next?"

Keith

I was at the Star Block Party, and that was lit. And I was also dragged to all of those New Day in Hough events. But for me, I think **personally the thing I loved the most was when I was like 9 at the time and that's when I had the most friends on 66th, because you know, 66th is mostly old people. But that was a time when there was actually young people here.** It was like 10 of us and we were just chilling at my house dang near everyday, and those were just some of the happiest memories I really do have associated with my street. Some of them I'm still in touch with now, but most of them I don't know where they at now. But that was what I would say for me was my favorite memory on my street.

**Everybody just grew up. [Young people] grew up and no one new moved in.** I think the only - I know my dude Muhammad stay right there - um, **and not just that people grew up, but there are just a lot of houses that no one is in right now.** Once you get closer to Chester, those houses are getting renovated and that's why no one's in there, but like, going down towards Superior it's like, I don't know ... it's weird. It's almost like ... see cuz I don't know that many people over there, so I don't know if there's really kids or not, because I do be seeing little smaller kids, like babies and stuff over there, but like, to my knowledge there's not that many people that are young who are here.

Tyler

**Yeah, it's everybody's grandma.** I just want to interject that. People always be like "yeah, my auntie live around the corner from you". That's very much true. **It's people that have had generational houses and people are not moving into them, or they have been vacant for years.**

Keith

**We need more black people owning real estate and there need to be more black-owned businesses. And more so in terms of service [industry] stuff.** Because I know that when I was a kid, there was really no daycares over here. **And Fatima now is the only rec center, but even Fatima isn't what it used to be. It used to be that and the Salvation Army down over there in the projects, and Fatima. But we need more businesses and places that will attract more people who are young. I mean ... put a corner store over here.** I know [people] that want snacks. I myself, like snacks. So .. just more corner stores, just things that will give young people a reason to come here. **I look around and there is no reason for young people to come here. There's nothing really to do. So it's like ... give people something to do. If you give people something to do they will be over here. They will be over here.**

QUESTION 2:

Zay

I think it's two things. **The first thing is being familiar with people. People are fearful of the unknown, and when people are not familiar with others, they feel hostile toward them.** Me being considered by others sometimes as an outsider, I didn't feel welcome because people didn't know who I was. It's important to have events that put people in positions to get to know each other. Because we are also at a crossroads in communication. People don't communicate face-to-face anymore. People communicate through social media and internet sites more, so being familiar is one thing and the other thing is opportunity. **A lot of people envy other people because they don't have the same opportunities as them. Having the option of people being able to take advantage of their opportunities can take away the envy that emerges when people feel like they don't have access to opportunity at all. When you give people opportunities, you give them a choice - and then when they have a choice their destiny is completely up to them.**

Keith

Yo ... that is exactly what I was about to say. Like, on the knock. Because I remember when I was a kid that's when Hough really started getting dangerous. Like 5 all the way up until I was 14. And I personally do not know why. All I knew is that I didn't want to go outside. After all of my friends moved I did not want to go outside at all, because I didn't know nobody. And by this time I had almost already got jumped, by this time I'm hearing gunshots all of the time, I'm seeing people get shot by this time. And there were no opportunities for me. I mean, there was, but not in the community. I had to go outside of the community to get those opportunities. So that's one. And two: the whole fear was because I didn't know nobody. So now, I realize how that had an effect on me. For the past two years, I've been trying to get to know people. I've been watching old films from the 90s, the 80s, and the 70s when niggas would just go across the street knowing everybody and I'm like "what? That's crazy! You're outside? And you feel safe? What? That's crazy!" So it's just like ... I want that, you know? So that's where I started forming that dream. And one thing about being familiar with people is also understanding people. Cuz one thing that happened for me is that I really have been thinking about people who go through worse than me. Because I've seen some stuff, but I haven't been through it. And I know people who have been through it. For example, my nephew used to live in the Woody Wood projects up on 73rd and Hough and I remember many times when he was like "my sister's car got shot" and he would just be hanging out with the kids there, and I can just imagine what he saw growing up, and I'm just like "dang." But it's not just that, he also doesn't have a stable father figure. So I'm like "dang" if we're not here for my nephew he's going to go through something way worse than us. And so now, I'm thinking about all of these other people near Thurgood, really and over in the projects near 55th as well who have gone through stuff that's way worse than me - and what gives me the right to be scared of them and I don't even know them. So once I started to understand that, I really started to be more familiar with people. Cuz it's like I don't know what you been through, so I'm gonna just take a chance. And if you set me up or do some weird stuff, then I guess God wasn't on my side then. So being familiar is very important to make the community feel more safer.

Dion

I live in the Hough neighborhood too, so a lot of the stuff that was said I relate to. But I live further down, like on 93rd. To make the neighborhood safe really is about the opportunities that you give people because you leave it up to them. If you give it to them then there is no way around it. Once you have the opportunity there is no more crying that you don't have opportunity. The second thing to make the neighborhood safe - we need more teen youth meetings. Like, we had some teen youth meetings where we was learning how to approach police officers. We need more teen youth meetings on how people talk to each other. Not just officers - but that's a good example because when officers go home and take their badges off, they are still just people at the end of the day. So we need more communication. When we go into neighborhoods and they are not familiar with us, people get jumped, people get shot - people are really afraid to walk the streets these days. In my neighborhood, you would have to get people comfortable with coming outside in our neighborhood before they will move to another neighborhood because some kids don't even feel safe in their own neighborhoods. So if you get kids to feel comfortable coming out to play in their own playgrounds, parents will be cool and not complaining. Once we do that then we can see if they will be cool with traveling somewhere else. Those are just a couple of [simple] things. Not too much. But also as far as being familiar, it's really difficult because of the aggressive way that people come off and are being territorial. People saying you're not from here and you can't be over here - when really you can be wherever you want. You and your little brother should be able to walk and not be scared without someone your own skin tone asking where you are from. Some of us need more male role models. Some of our older males are going through not having a father. We are still fighting that. So some of us still need more male role models to guide. That would be a big help.

Tyler

I had wanted to piggyback off of what Dion said. I want to stress having things that are over here that are actually open. I know that when I used to work downtown and coming home a lot, I would take the bus a lot before I could Uber, and one of the things that was really nervewracking for me walking home from my bus stop is there is nothing open between here and Euclid. I mean, there is Gallucci's there on 66th but that's closed by 6. So there is nothing really on 66th that would be open, even if it's just to have checks and balances. Once people are



more comfortable than people can feel more comfortable looking out for each other. Once you have that, then you can have what there used to be in the old days where people can really look out for each other. If you have more things that are open and more things that are open later, then you start to have more people who can look out for each other. But I also think it is really good to have more community things. I just remember how good that was for me when I was younger, seeing so many people from my neighborhood and getting to know them. I saw people in all kinds of roles doing the New Day in Hough Parade. I saw judges who looked like me, police officers, firefighters, it just gave me a stronger sense of humanity. And that will help bridge the gap with the older generation here. Because there is primarily older people living here. Once you get past 79th, it's a whole different - it's like two different Houghs. So I think being able to bridge the gap between those two areas will help a whole lot in solving the problems in our community.

We don't need anything too crazy or too out of the box. So yeah, one thing is having stores, but **there is not really anything with light along the way to my house. I mean ... we're just talking about walking down a dark street at 10 pm, you know what I'm saying? I mean that's the reality of a lot of situations. So if we had more businesses open, people will have more things to do but there will also be more light and more life. It's all a chain effect.**

Dion

**And they took a lot of our benches and tables that we had around the parks or near the parks, so there is nowhere to sit or be comfortable in our neighborhoods. And why are our streetlights so dim? A lot of the streetlights are never changed or they don't work, so you're just walking down a dark street. We need our community to look the right way. When you come outside you need to feel like you can come out and walk. People don't want to walk at all, that's why everybody gets in their car. They won't go nowhere unless they in their car. Sometimes you just want to be like "I don't want to be in my car today, I just want to walk." You want to walk without somebody approaching you or pulling up beside you in their car.**

They used to fix the grass, put the wood chips down, come clean the park, and they would come clean the neighborhood because you see trash everywhere you go. **Our community looks like we are just there doing anything. It's like you can see trash, graffiti, big holes in the ground, cracks - we need our stuff to look presentable to the people, as if somebody wanted to buy into our community.**

Zay

**I think it can probably be as simple as trash cans. It's that conscious thing of like .. Ok, you're done eating a bag of chips, but you look around, and there is no trash can around. So what are you going to do? You're going to throw it on the ground - well, most people are. I'm that weird person that's going to keep the bag in my pocket until I find a trash can. But if you have a trash can on the corner, what's going to stop you from taking 8 steps to the corner and throwing it away? When I walk to the gas station around the corner from my house, there is no trash can there. Why is there no trash can at a gas station? It makes no sense. People buy things at a gas station and use them before they even get to the car, and they want to throw it away, but there is nowhere to put it. I think it's just as simple as having things as that. Or like ... **there's teen youth meetings, but how about a "lets clean the community meeting. Ok, what are we going to do this week? Let's come together and cut the grass where there are abandoned houses". Because even though these houses are abandoned, that doesn't mean that these houses don't have any value. We can still do things to improve the value on these houses. So how do we as a community effectively do it ourselves? Then we have other people come in here and then benefit from the things that we are lacking to do for ourselves. So, I think it's as simple as that, to be honest.****

Tyler

I think that it's really interesting that you all are bringing up the grass in particular, because I've noticed - and I only see this in the underprivileged neighborhoods, I don't see this anywhere else - but on the vacant lots it will say "DO NOT CUT" - or maybe I'm thinking too hard, but you know, I always thought that was kind of weird. I'm not sure if that's another community thing where maybe we can come together and try to change that. But that affects the way this neighborhood looks, and pretty much the overall morale.

Zay

Yeah, I know a lot of that is supposed to be from the City, but that even goes back to people relating to and knowing each other. Because when I was growing up in the hood, it was a time where my -- the people I was living with would go and cut the neighbor's grass if it was looking like it was too long. But now people don't do that anymore because people don't know who they live right next to.

Keith

And to piggyback on all of that, **when I think about renovating 66th, I think about when I was living in LA because in LA I was living in a place that looked worse, to be honest. They had a big old homeless community there, there is a lot of drug addiction there, and it's mad more dirty. It's so dirty that the little drains on the curb are clogged up, so when it rains there are just a bunch of trash puddles. But the one thing about LA is that you have art on the walls. And not just like a little tag, no, you have whole ass art. And that was really inspirational for me. It's really weird, it's like - it's really beautiful for me to think about it. It's like I'd be riding on my bus on the way to school and I'm seeing all of these people on the curb doing crack right in front of me, straight up, and then I look to the left and I'm focusing on all of this artwork on the wall. It gives me something to focus on. And not only that, but the artwork was inspirational, it wasn't something that was put up randomly, but they were showing public figures. Like, it's Martin Luther King up there, or it's Malcolm up there or it's like black love and black excellence I'm seeing up there. That was the thing that lifted me up in those situations. So I think those kinds of artworks would help how the neighborhood looks, but it would also help with opportunity. Cuz you're like "dang, I don't see no opportunity. You're walking down the street and it's dark, and it's like, you just see tags on the wall. But if you're walking down the street, and there's just a little bit of light, and you see a whole art piece that's inspiring you, that would not only make you feel safer but then you think to yourself "maybe I want to do something." That's another thing that I feel is important as well.**

Tiyana

**Well, for me, a lot of kids just don't feel safe playing around abandoned buildings. So if you have a street full of abandoned buildings, you wouldn't feel safe running down that street with your friends, because a lot of times crazy things go on inside those buildings, and you be fearful of that. We really need to unite the community and get to know each other more.**

Janae

I live on 93rd and **not a lot of people care about what they do to the street, cuz there's a lot of trash. And if they could like keep the parks clean, like, when they do re-do the parks and stuff, they only half do it. It's like they don't put much effort into it, and they don't seem to care about what our community looks like anymore. And like when I was younger, I actually had a place to go, it was a recreation center, so it kept me busy all day. But now I can't even do that anymore. So we need another youth center where kids can go and feel safe instead of sitting in the house afraid to go outside.**

Tiyana

**I agree with that. If we had more positive things to do, it would be a lot less room for negativity.**

QUESTION 3:

Tyler

**I would say more things to do particularly in the League Park area - not just there, because I think there need to be more places in the neighborhood where young people feel they can go to do things - but I just remember in particular when that first opened up, it felt like all of Hough was there. All of Northeast Ohio was there, but it really felt like all of Hough was there, and it felt the way it used to feel when I was younger. There used to be a swimming pool, football teams - the park has been open for a few years, but there aren't really a lot of community things that go on there. And if we can tap into the Hough beyond 79th, that would be good, because people seem to know each other more there. And I'm at a bit of a disadvantage as far as that goes because here**

on 66th things are more chill. We're really not as connected with everybody. But up there, I think it will be big if we have more things like that here - and that directly tie into the youth there helping to organize it. It will give them more pride.

I guess more recreational stuff. It just feels like there is nothing at all. And more businesses. It just feels like you have to go outside of our community. So really, anything will be an improvement. We do have Fatima, but even that has been going downhill as far as building relationships with the younger generation.

Dion

She said we need more businesses, and more recs, but we need more things to do outside. But they took our benches away. But also, we need them to come and fix up the park more than just once a year. They would come in, fix up the park and then just leave. But it would be good to do it more than once a year - maybe once a month. And come get familiar. Those same people fixing up the park can get familiar with us, they might even be role models. Talk to us. We need people to come in and take us to new places. And not just fun things - give us knowledge. We're becoming adults, and the young ones are becoming teens. Don't have us in our neighborhood just doing anything. We need to be able to survive in the world. We don't need yawl to just come and show us once and then just leave and expect us to be ok with it. Because once it gets messed up, we're back to complaining. We need to have more tables with benches. We used to have those at the park. Now, it's just a park. So there is nowhere to sit. There is nowhere for your mom to watch her kids unless she's standing up. So it's not comfortable coming outside. Who wants to stand there to watch them? It's not comfortable enough in our neighborhood to be out here. People just aren't feeling comfortable to come outside. There is already shooting and killing going on, but the women are also being abducted. So we need our environment to be safe, not just for the boys, not just because of the drug activity, we need safety for our men and our women.

KEITH

I just feel like it's really dumb how there is a church on every single corner, and [people] claim to be Christian, but stuff is still going on how it is. Just to piggyback on Dion, not just do we need role models, but we have hella old people here, and honestly, if I'm being real, I don't think they give a [damn] about me. These old people, I don't know if they give a [damn] about me, for real. Because I remember my friend, Cameron, we was running from some dudes, and Cameron got jumped right next to a church while they were having an event outside. My dude was yelling for help. No one came. Niggas was in their house. It was a Saturday. No one came. I know that there's people in way worse situations that really don't think people give a damn about them. And because they don't think people give a damn about them, they just do whatever, you know? It's hard to really do something with your life if you feel like no one cares. So, what Dion is saying is big. You really have to reassure people that you care. And also, same thing with women too, you have to really reach out to women too because they didn't have fathers either. So we're all missing something, you know? We all were kind of deprived of something. And we really just need people to show us that we matter. Not everyone is strong enough or in the right environment to reassure themselves that they matter. Do you know how hard that is? It's not just events - like, I'm sitting here looking across the street right now, and this is a nice ass house. It's a nice ass house. And I know the people that live in there. And if you are living in that house, then you probably do something really important, you know what I'm saying? But I don't know what it is. The only things that we know in our community is the bad stuff. We don't know what's good in our community already. So I feel like we should just really pull that out of the community. Pull out these old [people] out they house and bring them to the kids so that they can actually show them something. Because they always be talking about it. They always be talking about "them kids do this, them kids do that" and I'm like "shut your old ass up and actually be there." [People] is all talk when it comes to that stuff. That's a real soft spot for me because like Tiyana said, we really need to know what's good in our community. And I feel like if we put old people and adults in more positions to be role models if we put them into that call for action, I think that would be amazing.

DION

Amazing.

KEITH

I think that would be amazing. So that the events that we have would be surrounded around that. Not saying that it has to be strict like, “we role models, and we’re getting into some deep shit today.” It don’t even need to be that. It can be as simple as a movie, as simple as a block party with food and music, you know what I’m saying? One thing about hip hop and The Mighty Zulu Kings, and one thing about the hip hop community in Cleveland - the hip hop community was the first place where I found structure and that really changed my life. And that’s why it changes a lot of people’s lives - dance and extracurricular activities - those are the things that introduce structure into many people’s lives. And there is a natural way to do it. But I feel like we should pull from the resources that we already have, and pull from the people that are already here so that we can actually see the positivity that is already in Hough over there on 93rd and over there on Wade Park.

Zay

Or things as simple as if you want to go for a run putting workout equipment out, just a little small set of something where people can do pullups or a little bicycle so people can work on their legs and stuff like that, or putting benches and tables and chairs out, or putting out a chess and checker set so people can bring their own pieces to play chess and checkers because things as small as that can relate the older generation to the younger generation. Because not everybody has the mindset to go ask somebody how they got to become who they are. But when you see that person enough times, generally you’re going to be curious enough to ask somebody. So if I keep seeing Mr. Johnson sitting playing chess and he’s beating everybody, I might be that kid that’s the hustler and I’ll be like if I can put myself in a situation where I’m going to learn how to make money off of beating people in chess, I’m going to learn how to do it. It can be as simple as that. Recreation centers is something that’s not a small task. Yes, these things can help, however, these things take time. So as far as things that can be fixed in a small amount of time, it’s as simple as putting benches out or putting a trail in, or a community garden - and even reverting to things as simple as the trash cans - these things are small, but are big victories. Because for example, when this whole Coronavirus thing hit, you can build a hospital in 10 days. Okay, you can build a hospital in 10 days, but then half of it collapsed a week later because you didn’t build it right.

- Recreation Center (2x)
- Skating Ring (3x)
- Movie theatre
- Corner store
- Homeless shelter
- Having a place to practice and perform art of all kinds (We already have Rainey Institute, but we need arts that are empowering to the people that live there because the perception is that Rainey has gotten watered down. “If you have art, it has to be empowering. Art asks open-ended questions, and that’s something that people don’t get asked a lot. When you’re asked an open-ended question, that gives you the power. So that’s why I feel like we need art institutions that are catered to the community it is based in because then the institution will know what questions to ask and how to empower the community. You can’t just put Playhouse Square here because no one will go to it. So yeah .. art is mad important. Mad important.” - Keith)
- Cafe with Internet Access (This came from Tyler, who did not know that the MidTown Tech Hive exists right in her neighborhood. Tyler replies “There are actually a lot of new things happening that people in the neighborhood don’t know about. This inspired a longer conversation about the need to get the word out about what is happening in the neighborhood more effectively, using multiple modes).

Of the three concepts, the group enthusiastically liked Concept 1 the most. They also overwhelmingly believe that the multipurpose trail is absolutely important.

## Interview Responses – Three Community Members from E. 66<sup>th</sup> Street

May 12-13, 2020

### Interview Responses from Two Residents along East 66<sup>th</sup> Street

Resident 1

#### What is it like for you walking along E66th street?

Resident 1: "It's quiet (laughs). I think [about] before the pandemic and how it was. Fatima is across the street from us and then league park. And that brings people from not in the neighborhood down here. There's always activity down here and we like it. Ms. Lewis talked about E66 and the plans they have for it. It'll be heavy traffic. And I didn't have any problem with it."

Resident 2: "Walking around here I feel relatively safe. We do take walks. We walk our dog. We ride our bikes. I jog, occasionally. We use our neighborhood."

#### How could your experience be improved?

Resident 1: There's one area that's more secluded closer to the Euclid part of E66. That's where they have some factories and Dunham Tavern. When you're walking from Euclid that area is a bit more secluded until you get to Chester. Our street is unique because it has some high traffic times like when there's an event, but for the most part its quiet

Resident 2: **People run our stop sign at Quimby.** Because it really is a quiet street, sometimes people just run that stop sign.

A bike trail might be nice, if they're going to widen the street.

We don't really walk down past Linwood, we walk where league park is and that sort.

#### Tell me about E66th street at night? (Lighting)

Resident 1: We got pockets of dark spots. Cause since we got some vacancies, it's not as well lit as it can be. E66th street, that's a kind of historical. We need some lights. Nice attractive light posts.

Resident 2: I'm legally blind, so I love light. Any light you can put on our street is good! There are lots of pockets of darkness. I would need more light for sure.

#### What types of new uses, business, activities would you like to see in the neighborhood?

Resident 1: A store for myself. A tech type store....kind of like a gadget type store.

Resident 2: We like the idea of our area being dry from alcohol. We don't want that type of store.

Resident 1: We've been down here 20 years. And at the corner store (by Mansfield) there was a lot of traffic and bottles. I was a part of the team to get it dry. I was a part of the team to make the winery [chateau hough] open.

Resident 2: Because of the ethnic background we represent, I'd like for someone to open a store that caters to African American, natural products, hair, skin, clothing, the stores that they have all over the place, but if we're going to open up some mom and pop stores, it'd be nice if someone in this neighborhood would open a store that caters to that product need. We have a lot of Afro-Centric people in this neighborhood. As we open up this street to be traveled and prosperous, it'd be a good idea to have something that caters to the culture that's represented. A garden would be great. And then a playground. A really nice playground.

#### Tell me about the trees and natural environment in your neighborhood?

E66 Residents ONLY: \*Would you be interested in having a tree in your front yard if the cost of the tree, planting and maintenance were able to be provided by others?

Yeah. Definitely would like to have some trees in front of my house. And if they're going to maintain them that'd be even better. Because this area (corner of 66 & Quimby) was a big building, concrete and stuff. So, there's not a lot of trees on my one corner. I definitely want to have some more trees.

E66 Residents ONLY: Would you be interested in having a tree in your front yard if the cost of the tree and planting were provided by others, but not maintenance?

I'd take that, too. It'd be great if they maintained it. But if I got it and they didn't maintain it I'd be happy with that.

**Resident Question: Would maintenance include leaf collection?**

E66 Residents ONLY: Would you be interested in learning about tree maintenance?

Yes. I'd like to know what kind of trees are best to plant. And what trees attract certain birds.

**Tell me about cars and parking along E66?**

With it being kind of wide, we don't have a lot of cars parked on E66th. Because of the way it's built, there aren't many houses where we are. For the most part nobody really parks in our area (Quimby to Lexington). Except for Sunday morning. That's when you might see a high volume of parking (at the church, if the church lot runs out of space). Or if there's something going on at League park. Other than that, there isn't a lot of parking. When people do park, they tend to do so on the east side of the street.

**Tell me about biking and walking in the neighborhood**

Resident 1: We'll pretty much ride down Lexington, it's quiet unless there's an event. I would drive down to 66 to go down Chester. Like I said, I feel relatively safe.

Resident 2: The only time I've felt a little uncomfortable is coming close to Euclid because there's nothing there really. And on bikes it's relatively safe. You don't feel like oh I can't ride my bike because something might happen. But of course, we are being mindful of our surroundings

**Do you take the bus?**

Resident 1: My kids took public transportation to school. That worked out for us tremendously. We have the Hough bus that stops right in front of our house and then they can walk up to the health line. At times they were at jobs downtown and they caught the bus downtown. So that bus is real convenient that comes on E66th st.

Resident 2: I do. I take the bus if I'm going downtown. And the guy across the street from us rides the bus to work every day.

My trees got caught down. **I had a couple trees right by the bus stop, and I wanted to put a bench there so people could wait and sit in the shade.** I don't know why they cut my trees down? They didn't give us any warning, they just cut the trees down. That I had planted. A bench would have been perfect with my tree. I wouldn't mind a little bench. [maybe including a small shelter area – when people wait for the bus now they wait on the church stoop to get out of the rain]

**What gift or skill do you have (of the head, heart, hands)?**

Resident 1: I'm a people person [that person who's always trying to pull things together – wants to see others doing well and takes time to know people]. IT person, too. [I] started a business recently and want to be able to teach inner city youth about IT, so they can be set up to be certified and find IT jobs. I just got off the phone with the Urban league to set it up. The one nonprofit I have set up is Urban Tech Edu as a nonprofit and I just got off the phone with the urban league for a for profit side of it. I'm just trying to put it all together.

Resident 2: I am a vocalist by gifting. So that's you know, I flow in that all the time.

**What gift/skill might you be willing to utilize or teach in relation to this project?**

Resident 1: Basic IT literacy & basic entry level so people can get jobs in that field

Resident 2: Well, I wouldn't mind working with people not necessarily teaching vocal lessons, but teaching people how to use their voice as a source of comfort and positive energy and music in that way. I work with Choirs. I sing. Every once and while they'll ask me to sing at a neighborhood event. I'm very open to things of that nature. We are spirit based – born again Christians – anything to do with that piece, we are always open to community knowing about our savior.

#### **Additional Notes:**

**Both Resident 1 & 2 would like to be in touch with the Library.**

"I love where we are now. We got blessed to have this land. It's really very quiet around here. The only thing at night is lighting. Because it's so quiet. You can hear every gunshot, if there are any. We don't see a lot of drug activity, but we know it is here. Because we have some prominent folks who live nearby, we try to keep that to a low. And different people look out and keep [the negative activities] to a low."

Resident 2

#### **1. Tell a story about your favorite memory on E. 66th Street or anywhere in the neighborhood.**

I used to be a camp counselor at Fatima for the summer. I was in that space and in League Park every day. One of the things we would do is go Roller-skating. The Roller-skating rink was in the basement of the Salvation Army. We would walk up and down E66 with a bunch of little kids. I was 18 at the time. It was always fun and it was always a particularly laughable place to walk. It was hard to see danger, because you were safe, you were fine. It always felt safe and it always felt like we're just going to play with the kids and play on the street.

My freshman year in high school I was allowed to take the RTA, to come from downtown to Hough. The only way you could get up here was on the 38. On 66th there was also the 4 bus. They come every 45 min. And as a kid, you couldn't miss the bus. I regularly ended up taking the 4, which would drop me on Lex & 66 and then I'd have to walk the rest of the way home. E66 was the cutoff, now it's time to walk.

It was interesting moving into the neighborhood at 8 years old. My dad gave all the cautious stories. I grew up on 73rd. Between 65th and 73/79th, it always just felt completely safe, completely comfortable.

#### **Do you still feel that way walking those same routes?**

Yes; I still feel that way on Lexington. I live on 79th at Lexington village. It feels safe. There are moments on 79 where I feel more aware. I definitely still feel safe. My fiancé and I walk and I do feel safe, I feel ownership. This is my street. It's definitely home. I still feel a sense of comfort.

#### **On the Salvation Army**

It was huge. It was a safe space. There was always something happening there. In Hough, the only other place is Fatima. **There's not any open schools anymore and because everything**

**else is pretty much residential, salvation army was the safe space.** You went to Salvation Army until you were a teenager, then you were old enough to go down to Thurgood Marshall.

I took swimming lessons and we took the kids down there when I was working at Fatima to swim and to roller skate. It was life. I'm sad that they're gone.

I am especially sad that they [replaced the Salvation Army with] Oreana House. There are a lot of reentry and halfway houses in my neighborhood. I'm disappointed that they decided to use that space for that purpose. I know they are needed, but when you take away the school and add a drug rehab center, this is what you're telling the kids. **You took away the schools, the salvation army, and you want to disinvest in Thurgood Marshall, but we can open two more drug facilities in the same 5 block radius?**

### Why Did the Salvation Army Close?

I have no clue. I was not here at the time. [I moved back to the neighborhood after leaving for a few years.] I came home one day and was like, "what the hell? What do you mean the salvation army is closed?" In Hough, we don't have a viable CDC and our former council staff were not as [focused on] the community. This is what happens when you don't have community voice. Without a CDC to say "wait, you can't do something without our feedback..." In other neighborhoods, that wouldn't happen. Burton Bell Carr, for example, would have never let an organization just leave without a grand implementation plan. [They would have made sure] a replacement is beneficial to the community. You can't be upset at them because we didn't have the people in place to stop them. And they probably thought, Fatima is down the street. They serve our community well. We can move somewhere else.

2. As you think about E. 66th Street or as you think about your neighborhood, how would you re-design the street so that it feels safer for you?

**Lighting is a thing that could be improved.** I am and have noticed that there are a lot more people in our neighborhood who are riding bicycles. So, **it'd be wonderful if the streetscape included bike lanes.**

Because the RTA turns at that corner, both ways, I think we need... I'm reluctant to say greenery, I'd be concerned with physical space and the buses coming around, but **lower bushes and trees [would be great]. [I'd prefer that the new landscape maintains] a great line of sight.** [Currently], it's an open space, you can see up and down the street. You can see someone walking down the street from a block away. When we're adding buildings, is it possible to get a wider lane so when the buses are turning, both buses can avoid hitting each other? I think keeping visibility down the street is important.



Walking, you have several abandoned buildings, storefronts, and old corner stores that are maybe the next block over but still lend towards an unsafe feeling. You want to clean up the space and make sure things are visible. Make sure the lighting is good.

I am excited for this ice cream shop. One of the things I want to open, **I want to have an art gallery/event space, where we could have gallery showings and local artists** - just a small gathering space. I want a **coffee shop**. I don't even drink coffee, but I want a coffee shop. It's a community. I don't want E66 to turn into a bar hop scene or anything like that, it would be nice for it to be the space people feel they can come to and that people in the community visit often.

Parking is a big thing. One of the neighbors who will be near the ice cream shop complained asking, "where will all these cars park?" When there's an event at Fatima, there's no parking. But where do people go to park? If I can't find parking space somewhere, I don't go. And with bus lines the way that they are, it's not like someone's going to hop on the bus to go to Hough. I think that's something to consider.

### 3. As you think about E. 66th Street or as you think about your neighborhood, how would you redesign your street or neighborhood so that it gave you more things to do?

Coffee shop & art gallery.

I think it would be nice to have an actual playground in the area. The closest playground open to the community is up by Chester. We want people to come and have ice cream, sit outside, play on the playground. [If I had] a space where I could park, I could walk from Linwood to Hough or E66 and see all the stuff. There's the space, but it's walkable. In my daydream, I'm really excited about this ice cream, I think I really just want ice cream right now. But I definitely see a place where people could actually walk through and sit. **On W25th, there's a little street with restaurants on both sides, it's a little tiny little street across from the West Side Market. I like that within that space, there's not traffic that comes in and out** because you can't [really drive or park much on the street]. I'm going to park down the street and I'm going to walk and then go down this street and go check out these restaurants and stores. But in order to access the things, you might turn into a nook that has shade, trees, it'd be nice to make it feel walkable in that space. People need to [be able to] park and walk.

### 4. If you had the opportunity, what would you do to re-design E. 66th Street or your neighborhood so that it made you feel like you were on the most technically-advanced street in the city?

So, the first thing that I thought of was **interactive kiosks**. Maybe in different spaces around that could tell you, lets' say restaurant x had a special today or interactive maps [that could tell you] oh is that coffee shop on Linwood open? I can just click and see the schedule. Maybe it includes the bus schedules, I can see where the bus is coming. The bus is going to come through the neighborhood in 20 min and I know where that is so I can be prepared.

**I think it'd be really nice for safety to have a hearing accessible crossing** – announcing its time to cross, so people with different abilities can cross the street safely. I would want people to be able to log into **free wireless network**, especially in that area. 66<sup>th</sup> street wifi. At the shops there you [would] automatically have their wifi. You just sign into one wifi space in the whole area. I think that would help people feel more comfortable moving from one place to the other.

There was a cool article about how japan is working on **tech where people could contact the police [from public-private spaces, like a bathroom]** – it is geared around preventing human trafficking. You can access the system in a portable bathroom. What if we put more than a tip line? **What if you put an interactive line, where someone could speak and get help right away – right from the public bathroom?** ex. Advanced version of the blue light have on college campuses?

I think it would be amazing **to have um computer access in the space**. The library will provide more opportunity, but I would like to think of **a larger computer lab**. With this neighborhood, there are not any places for people to go for computers and printers.

**We need a Kinkos!** We can never print or have things printed.

How do we make the street safe and accessible for people with varied abilities? And then make it an asset so the community has connections to resources that we need the most.

We have lots of kids needing to go work online and not having computers or fast internet. How does the community resolve those issues? **[We should] partner with the library so they can have a computer lab that has a separate entrance only open on certain hours when the library is closed**. The library closes at 6pm. What about people who are working? Could those hours broaden for those in community?

5. If you were redesigning the street, what decisions might you make about lighting, trees, parking, bike lanes?

**We need a bike lane and places to park our bikes**. Why wouldn't you so you could have people come to the spaces without being put out? Where am I supposed to put my bike so I can go around to restaurants or whatever?

**Lighting needs to be sensitive to the fact that there are residents there**. Might need to be time-sensitive.

Visibility. I wouldn't want the buildings to be too high. We can have street vision looking down the street that makes it feel a bit safer.

Having lights in the sidewalks, so it's not super bright, but it's something that can trail your path to the parking lot, just so you can feel safer.

**Perceptions of Hough Explored – On Being a Mixed Income Community:**

I learned [the perception] very quickly. We moved down here in April 1998 and I turned 9 in May. None of my friends from my private school in Cleveland heights were allowed to come to my birthday party. We're the same people, what did I do? My parents explained the Hough riots and that [the kids and parents from school] have a perception of our neighborhood and they may never come down here. I was angry and sad.

I'll tell people I'm from Hough and no one believes me (because of the way I speak). Oh well, you don't live in Hough, you were planted in Hough... you were unexposed to the real neighborhood. You live in "Hough Heights".

A lot of it is communication. The mindset of people living generation to generation in disenfranchisement in a population or community that has been largely ignored. Their only responses are what they see and they still see the same things they saw before. I can't tell them that their story is not true. I can't say that, but what I can do is show them what the story is like for me.

Only way I see it is that I work in the schools. I'm talking to them every day about what does life look like and some of it is disheartening. What do you do? You can't tell the Cleveland Foundation everything wrong in the neighborhood! What bank is going to fund us if we share all?! How is someone putting a winery in the hood going to say there are gunshots and this and that... he won't get funding. I wish more people understood what they did when they built renaissance place. I wish people understood.

When my parents built their house, a lot of those abandoned buildings got torn down. One gentleman [I met], it was his grandmother's home [that was torn down]. His family blamed us because rich folks came into the neighborhood and started tearing down our houses. They prefer the rich black folks to the poor black folks. We were able to sit down and talk. And say this is what actually happens. [He was going off of] Grandma always said, so and so always said, y'all didn't want old houses around your pretty new little houses... there's a duality in it and we talked that through.

## 6. What gift or skill do you have (of the head, heart, hands)?

I'm really good at facilitating dialogues and talking. I would definitely be willing to utilize that skillset whenever you get in person meetings.

I am very good at details. Organizing events, meetings, timelines. I enjoy timelines and budgets. I enjoy the behind the scenes.

I'm willing to help in any way I can. I'm happy to be supportive, making sure things get done.

## Who else should we talk to?

- Folks who used to live there but don't anymore
- Few friends and associates who live or partially lived in the neighborhood
- Person lives here now → she and her husband and two kids bought a house down here.
- Goal to connect with seniors & students

- More people in 30s/40s who live here. That'd be beneficial. We are thinking permanency, more than people younger than us and we're not yet jaded than the folks a little older than us might be. If you can find more people in my age range.

It's hard to have a balance and for people to understand what a [rebuilding] processes look like. It took years for this community to get this way, so it will take many years to fix it. There's balance. Younger folks, we like to see more immediate results, and older folks are like this is the way it is, this is the way it's going to be. Personally, its challenging for me living in between the generations... but, we all love Hough.

My Dad wanted to open a coffeeshop and a bike shop. There was a long-term plan for the neighborhood. That plan started in 1994, now here we are in 2020 talking about an ice cream shop. Progress takes a long time.

We should look at the age demographic who are looking for stability and a long-term plan. Great to look at history, but we also have to remember it's a completely different generation and what existed might not be what we need.

### Resident 3

#### What is it like for you walking along E66th street?

- Doesn't walk as much anymore
- Not as safe anymore
- Theory that folks are coming back from prison and that there's a relation between the spike in crime

Quote: "At one time it was okay, it was a nice street. They shot a movie over here at one time. And uh that was a while ago, but um, now it's getting a little bit shady"

#### How could your experience be improved?

- More lights
- More cameras
- Tearing down old homes & apartments
- Keeping things clean

Context: He used to pick up the trash and keep the neighborhood clean.

Quote (beautification): "I did it for years. They had trash cans over here, the cement ones. For years, I would call and complain because they were messy. I don't do that anymore because I'm getting older now. So, I kind of quit doing it. "Keep America Beautiful". Everywhere I went, I picked up trash. Then they started picking up trash more regularly after years of me calling and complaining. Talked to the councilman at the time and the mayor, and all they could say is keep calling. So, um, I kept calling. So now they pick up a little more regularly. Called "Now" Cans. It's a communication problem. I got some of that resolved."

Quote (Tearing down abandoned places): "They were tearing down a lot of stuff, old houses & apartment buildings. Kept the transients out, which made it feel a little safer."

Tell me about E66th street at night? (Lighting) – answered in above

#### What types of new uses, business, activities would you like to see in the neighborhood?

Quote: "Businesses? I don't see that. We live in a poor neighborhood, who would put their business over here?"

Quote: "You going to import people from other neighborhoods to come over? I doubt if they'll come over here just for business? I can't see anybody making any money, other than Mansfield. I can't even foresee

an ice cream store, really? By the same token, guy trying to put a radio store up here, so the kids could learn about the radio, I can't see that being a business. "

#### Gifts –

- Volunteered for League Park
- Beautification
- Music Theory
- Plays the Piano & Plays for Churches
- Advocating for Community

Volunteered for league park – We have a ball. Well, we used to. Ballplayers would come, the kids would come and have their home games. Knowing that Babe Ruth hit 500<sup>th</sup> homerun here. They were disappointed because we couldn't get a swimming pool back like it was. Everything must change. I'm happy with what little bit we did get. I was amazed, people would come to me like I was their councilman. Have to ask your own questions. Go see what's going on in the neighborhood. Even our present councilman, let him know.

Teach: I could share my musical theory knowledge. I started out as a theorist before I could play the piano. One director asked. How'd you get like that?! Because I studied the theory. I didn't have a piano, I was never on it. Because I studied theory, I used to hang around people at the Music Settlement. They can tell how you can play by the way you talk. I studied theory so I could understand what they're talking about. Now im trying to get my sight reading better, since we're in isolation.

#### Who else should we talk to?

Talk to Others: "It's not that many people that are interested. And I find that amazing. You bought a house down here in the neighborhood and you don't want to talk to anyone around you. They built these big houses with these great big fences and they're locked in the house. And that's disappointing. I thought we were all going to go to council meetings and come together. A lot of people are a lot of talk and don't do anything...

#### General Background

Lived in neighborhood since 2005. Time for the tax abatement to go away, but um, it's relatively safe, it's quiet, that's for sure, till they start letting people out of prison, found the place was totally different than when they left it. That's why I try to keep it clean. I hate to have trash going up and down the street. You look at the trolley going up and down the street. When you got a trashy neighborhood, that takes away. Trying to get neighbor to follow me, and that went over like a led balloon. Maybe this year when they see I'm not doing it, they'll get out and do it. I got to a point they was just depending on me to do it. I used to go around and cut people's grass. Gotta keep the neighborhood decent. Maybe as I'm getting older, maybe they'll do it for me, hopefully.

I'm a community person. I try to impress to them, be neighborly, look out for each other. Doesn't seem to go too well. I don't know why. I guess its called fear. I don't much understand it, but I came over here You just moved here and you know more about people who live there than we do. As I got older, I quit doing that stuff. I came over here because of Fannie Louis and some of my friends were building houses in the neighborhood. We're going to be one community, we're all going to be together. You've built houses, but you you've built fences and stay in your house. You stay in your house and you don't know who's walking down the street. That's the whole point of community. Know whose walking up and down the street. Keep an eye out. Communicate with each other. But they fooled me. But I keep hanging in there.

#### Other Community Assets

- Neighbor has a peaceful public-private garden

Quote:

Gifts: He bought some land across the street from his house and it's beautiful. I'd help him over there. And we turned it into a place where people can have weddings, it's like a flower garden (on Quimby). You go out there and sit down and read a book. He's got electricity. It's gated, but it doesn't cost a dime. Have a place to go, sit outside amongst flowers, and take pictures.

- Movie was filmed along E66
  - The Soloist w/Jamie Fox & Robert Downy Jr.

## Birthing Beautiful Session with Mothers

June 10, 2020

### **Lighting**

Streetlights. The ones you see in the suburbs that are in the front grass and have that nice light amp that hang over into the street. Bright colors. We have a building over here that someone painted but it's black. We have yellow houses and bright colors but when you see something dark in the neighborhood and it's not brightening it up it takes that feeling away of safety. We need bright colored buildings. Better lighting, greenery, abandoned buildings that need to be torn down.

It's always been important to have good lighting. It always was a joke: "get in before the street lights come on", but we want to see the street lights come on. Without them being broken, without them being so distant that there might be one in front of my house, but not your house.

I'd have better lighting and good sidewalks. They redesigned some of the sidewalks for wheelchairs and stuff and that's good, but sidewalks with space to walk on.

### **Creating a Space of Play and Community Gathering**

I feel safe when I know my neighbors. When I know that I can walk down the street and if I have a flat tire you're not gonna rob me but you're gonna say "yo do you need a ride to the gas station to put some air in your tire". That is to me what safety is. And bringing back those neighborhood gatherings. That, I think, would do so much.

Some playgrounds have soft pads now, so if the children fall, it's safe for them to fall without hurting themselves. And then they have large motor skills to where the children are able to climb and use their large muscles. Some playgrounds have that, so ...

You have green space, and in certain communities, I've seen where they will even institute a grill that's already there. It sends a message when you go to the parks or go to those places like "oh this is a place where people can just grill" like it gives you a sense that we can be outside.

I just agree with her about the street lights and I agree a lot with the parks. I do have two small children and I don't take them to parks around here on 79th and Euclid. When I decide to take them to parks, I take them further up, because it's always something wrong with the parks down here. The slides are either always old and rusted or the swings are torn down. It's always something wrong with the parks down our way.

### **The Arts**

I don't know if you guys have the opportunity to go over on Kinsman but there's like a little theater. It's got little cement seats and space where there can be a stage right there. Already built into this little space. It's not a lot of square footage, it's not a lot of money. Surround it with some grass and a grill or two and you have a place where people know "oh this is open for me to come and play my music and have a block party and do whatever."

I was thinking about a storytelling mural. Literacy is so important. We could put small stories where somebody can come - the child can't read, but they see the words. Even poetry or a verse from one of the rap artists on the mural. I'd love to see words on there. We have talented kids who spray paint. Spray painted murals would be beautiful to show their talents. Words on the mural would be great. Verse murals. You put your favorite verse there from your favorite rappers - the clean version. Literacy is so important. It's a good thing for our kids to see words and pictures.

### **Bike Lanes**

And another thing is, I ride my bike, so for me to be safe I need a bike lane. It's not two lanes, it's one lane. There's no two-lane line. I'm getting frustrated because when people drive, they drive like there are two lanes, but it's not wide enough to be two full lanes. And people get annoyed when it's one. So you need one lane and a bike lane on Hough. Makes the most sense.

### **Security Cameras**

I am 100% for cameras. Even growing up. We went by a lot of he said, she said. So I think about some of the times if we had a camera, we could know something. Cameras are important, especially right now - in this time. Even if you know with the kids - kids run off, kidnappings have happened years I mean since the beginning of time. People say, if I had a camera. We should say cameras are our friend.

I stay in an apartment building on the corner of 79th and Euclid and my apartment is riddled with cameras and I feel safe. I've been here for 4 years and I've never felt unsafe in my apartment and that's because of the cameras. I know when I walk out my apartment. On the corner is a camera and it makes me feel safe.

### **Other**

So on 66th instead of having the buildings back and having so much landscaping in front, bring the buildings closer, that's more inviting. So that would be a way to have that perception of safety and have that perception of community. When I say buildings I mean businesses, not houses.



## Mothers Session 2

### VISION FOR A NEW E. 66TH STREET

#### Feel

- **Village**
- Coming together
- Safe
- Spiritually uplifting

#### Look

- **Playgrounds with soft pads and clean, new equipment**
- Verse murals
- Meditation circles
- Gardens
- **Good lighting**
- **Large sidewalks**
- Parks for sports and play
- Cooking center
- History center
- Centers opened late
- Holistic Centers
- **Doctors, Dentists, Mental Health centers**

#### ROUGH TRANSCRIPTION:

##### Question 1: Favorite Memory

Verna: I grew up on 90th and Superior, between Wade Park and Superior. I went to three schools: Daniel E. Morgan, Luladale(?), and East High. **One thing I remember was the village mentality of our neighborhood. One of my favorite memories was when they built our playground at Daniel E. Morgan. Carl B. Stokes, our mayor at the time, came and did a dedication to the playground. Everybody in the neighborhood knew each other.** People didn't move a lot, so we knew everybody. It was safe to say if I'm walking down the street and I see Stephanie mom and she see me doing something wrong, it was okay for her to chastise me. If parents came out - giving popsicles to all the kids. That village, I wanna see that back in all the neighborhoods, where we do look out and take care of each other. I was walking to school, fell in the water, my mom was working, and the neighbor gave me clothes and I got back to school safely. **That was one of my favorite memories: growing up was the village mentality with everybody taking care of each other.** There was a few who didn't, but maybe just like one family. We all went in to eat dinner at the same time. That was throughout the neighborhood. **That village mentality is what I really remember about our neighborhood. The original street I grew up on, 71st and Hough, and I remember the Hough Riots and the Black**

**Nationals.** I was about three or four years old but I remember my mom, we were in a four suite apartment, telling us to go in and I remember the guys with the hats, marching down 71st where MLK school is now and I remember them marching down there on Hough. **Every time I ride by there, its just like “I remember when” and I used to go to that store on the corner of 71st.** That’s when they used to give you due bills(?) for food stamps. Look this stuff up for history.

Jazzmine: One of my favorite memories: My mother and father grew up on 88th and Superior and when I was about 6/7 - we moved on Wade park, but my aunt lived on 88th in Superior. From my house to my aunts house, it was walking distance. My dad was always at my house. He’d walk from my aunts house to my moms house. Him and my mom weren’t together. They hadn’t been together since before I was gone, but we’d go to sleep and wake up and he’d be there. We’d be able to look outside and see his car outside and know that he wasn’t far. And my dad died when I was 10, so those memories in that area is what’s really important to me, what stands out to me.

Sabriyyah: I remember staying on Lexington about 5/6 years. There was a middle school up there on Chester or Carnegie. It’s closed down, it was right there by Daves. I used to go to that school. **I remember always running around in the neighborhood, going to the store, getting Faygo pops and potato chips and getting to know my friends.** And of course I went through my trials and tribulations as a teenager also. Those are my memories on Hough area. **I go visit from time to time and it is beautiful! So much has changed. They tore down the building I used to stay in. They built a Daves. They shut down the middle school. The playground is still there. I remember playing around that playgroup. It seem like the population there is not as full as it used to be, but you know. It’s changed. That’s my history.**

Iman: I grew up over on 79th and Wade Park when I went to highschool. My favorite memory is when this dog came out of nowhere and jumped on me. Something happened, it ended up running away - so all I had was a small scratch on my ankle and I was just grateful, cause it was a really big dog. We called the pet people to come out and get him and when they caught him, he was huge like we didn’t know how big it was, because it happened so fast. I didn’t even see it coming. It was at my ankle and then it was running away. I was just grateful that it wasn’t a bad experience. I was always nervous of getting attacked by some random dog and stuff.

Question 2: How would you redesign the street so that it’s safe?

Verna: **It’s always been important to have good lighting. It always was a joke: “get in before the street lights come on”, but we want to see the street lights come on. Without them being broken, without them being so distant that there might be one in front of my house, but not your house.** Years ago at one time, there was a promotion where the illuminating company - every house had a lantern in front of their house. **If nothing else, I’d have better lighting and good side walks. They redesigned some of the sidewalks for wheelchairs and stuff and thats good, but sidewalks with space to walk on. We used to have so much fun growing up. We actually played outside. We need a kickball field, a baseball field. Things for our kids to be okay - coming out, playing. A really good playground, not no just put together playground. We had some garden areas, I see them kinda getting bigger now. We used to plant things where everybody can participate. I stayed in between Hough and**

**Crawford in mid 90s, a historic buildings. We used to have tenant meetings and we put flowers on our porch and we as neighbors would buy flowers and on a sunny day plant flowers in our yards and somebody planted flowers in somebody yard if somebody wasn't at home. Things like that, to see the pride come back in the neighborhood. Where its okay to pick something up off the ground and put it in the trash but not drop it. So if you see somebody dropping something, saying oh, there's a garbage can, you can put it right there and they don't drop it. Taking pride back in our neighborhood. I'm big on street lights.**

**Jazzmine: I just agree with her about the street lights and I agree a lot with the parks. I do have two small children and I don't take them to parks around here on 79th and Euclid. When I decide to take them to parks, I take them further up, because its always something wrong with the parks down here. The slides are either always old and rusted or the swings torn down. It's always something wrong with the parks down our way.**

Daniel: What I wanna ask is, what is it about the parks further up? I don't wanna deal with what the parks that we have don't have, but what do the parks further up do have?

**Jazzmine: They're cleaner. My mother stay up in Euclid. When I take my kids to the park up in Euclid, they're cleaner. The equipment isn't falling apart. They're cleaner. The equipment is newer and more upkept and the actual park is cleaner.**

Mary: I saw that you said something in the chat about less abandoned buildings in the chat, did you want to say more about that?

**Jazzmine: Abandoned buildings just make streets look scary. I watch a lot of tv, so I know a lot of bad stuff happens in abandoned buildings. I get scared when I have to walk up the street at night and I have to pass an abandoned building. They just scare me.**

Daniel: Ms. Verna, you also said something else that was really important and I just want to clarify: when you talk about the garbage and the trash cans, is it that people don't use the trash cans or is it that there just aren't any trash cans?

**Verna: A little bit of both. They used to have them, years ago, signs about keep the city clean - they would paint them on there. I was somewhere, I can't remember where I was, but they said you couldn't have a trash can in front of your house or something like that. But both because it's not enough garbage cans and then they're not accessible. Some people, like, just say you finish a bag of potato chips, I see them and they ball it up and they just drop it. And some people just naturally litter. Even if we had a thousand and people, they're gonna do that. But I think if they seen them and knew, even if it was announced and even with this social distancing - a garbage can is 6 feet apart from everybody and you can find a trash can to put it in. It aggravates me and even the garbage man will come and sometimes the debris from the garbage truck will blow. I got gloves and I go out there and pick up stuff. It's so easy to do things and we talk about so much in the news, but little tidbits. It takes 21 days or 31 days to create a habit. If you say 21 days, tell them every day, don't forget to put your trash, I think people will - it's an easy, natural thing to do. They'll look at a receipt and throw it down. If they seen a garbage can and we emptied the garbage**

**can - that's another thing. Then yeah. They had paint, keep the city clean, they used to have it painted on garbage cans, but they took it out. That was before Mayor Jackson.**

Daniel: Part of what I'm hearing from both of you Ms. Jazzmine and Ms. Verna is this idea of **maintenance**. What you said Ms. Verna, it's not even just about people putting things in the reciprocals, it's about making sure they're emptied. And for you Ms. Jazzmine, it's not even just about what's not at the parks, but what is there - keep it and **maintain it and people are more willing to come**.

Sabriyyah: I don't live in the Hough area. It's been years. But I do travel and visit sometimes. It seem like it changed to me. If I stayed back over there, moved over there - **I'm looking for a neighborhood with a library; a neighborhood with a playground where I can walk short distance, take my children. I do understand what the other sister was saying, her complaint about the playground because it be rust. You don't want your children playing on a playground with rust. That leads to lead and other dysfunctional things within your child when they pick it up and play with their hands. And no matter how many times you keep their hands clean, they're gonna come in contact with something. Or, um, some playgrounds have soft pads now, so if the children fall, it's safe for them to fall without hurting themselves. And then they have large motor skills to where the children able to climb and use they large muscles. Some playgrounds don't have that, so.** Again, if I was to move back in the Hough area on Superior. The first thing I'm looking for is a library. That's very important to me. I used that as a school for my children, because I home school.

Iman: I agree. I feel like there should be a library down that way as well. **I was gonna mention abandoned homes too. That's one of the first things I thought of. When I was thinking about that area. Every time you turn off the one street and what not from the grocery store, you see all these abandoned spaces. They can either do something with them or continue to make good on space and make community gardens which people seem to want to do more of. I think it'd even be nice to take a step forward and have space for adults as meditation circles which are really easy. All you do is put down rocks in a certain formation. Stuff like that could help the community with spiritual uplifting and it'll be nice to see because it's beautiful and it makes you wanna stop and it adds overall well being.**

Question 3: Should we have cameras on the street?

Verna: I am 100% for cameras. Even growing up. We went by a lot of he said, she said. So I think about some of the times if we had a camera, we could know something. Cameras are important, especially right now - in this time. Even if you know with the kids - kids run off, kidnappings have happened years I mean since the beginning of time. People say, if I had a camera. We should say cameras are our friend. To put it like that. Not so much as to be policed, but just for that safety - just as mothers, when we have playgrounds, now that we can walk to, we still need that for safety measures. We would love for everybody to be great, good, nice - but everybody not. **The camera out there would be safety net and keep them working! It's good to say "oh we gonna put a camera out here. It's gonna work for two weeks and then something happen. "Well we got footage ... you know what, the camera wasn't working".**

**I grew up in the mom and pop store time - like different stores, you could walk to the store. They have Daves over there and we have Audis, but just sometimes - just a simple comfortable mom and pop type store where kids go and buy their junk. A comfortable store where you don't have to go into a big full fledged grocery store and you dont wanna buy stuff. And the libraries are important and the meditation spaces. I would love that. And even our kids had bikes. Just a better place, A sense of community. We can ride out and see other people have that in their neighborhoods. Why can't we have that in our neighborhoods? I remember that time so when I don't see it, it's heart wrenching. We had a really good donut shop and everything on that strip is tore down, abandoned. So we take away the abandoned buildings, we have to build up this land. We have homeless people. We can do low income housing. But they say okay we're gonna tear down these abandoned buildings and then just have all this abandoned space you know and do nothing with it. But I'm 100% for cameras. I think camera are our friends.**

Jazzmine: I stay in an apartment building on the corner of 79th and Euclid and my apartment is riddled with cameras and I feel safe. I've been here for 4 years and I've never felt unsafe in my apartment and that's because of the cameras. I know when I walk out my apartment. On the corner is a camera and it makes me feel safe.

Iman: I agree with cameras wholeheartedly. I see no issue with having that extra security. And people can be help accountable if anything were to happen - there's at least something to go off of.

Bri: Iman was talking about the aspect of beauty when talking about safety of the community and how we can have beauty replace the abandoned buildings in the neighborhood. I'm wondering what you all think are other ways that beauty can be brought into the neighborhood?

Verna: **I was thinking about a storytelling mural. Literacy is so important. We could put small stories where somebody can come - the child can't read, but they see the words. Even poetry or a verse from one of the rap artists on the mural. I'd love to see words on there. We have talented kids who spray paint. Spray painted murals would be beautiful to show their talents. Words on the mural would be great. Verse murals. You put your favorite verse there from your favorite rappers - the clean version. Literacy is so important. It's a good thing for our kids to see words and pictures.**

Question 4: How would you redesign your street to give your kids something to do?

Verna: **A cooking center where we can cook. We only have one spot where we teach our parents about cooking over on Kinsman. If we can clean it up, I'm thinking a kickball game - something with sports weekly to get our community together. Willaby have a baseball place and you see people going out there all the time. The kids have baseball teams and stuff. You can do things like that with our community. Our kids shouldn't have to go out - Willaby and Euclid. They got League Park there, but join a league. We used to play doge ball with soft balls. Sports things. Getting our elderly out to a space for them to sit. I believe that would help. Meditation space too. It's good to teach our kids to be still. I always say if our children knew their history more strongly, they would act a bit better. Putting history back**

**out there for our children. Getting that village mentality back and that history back for our children.**

Bri: What ideas do you have about implementing history into the community?

Verna: Reaching out to people who knew the history. We go into Elijah Bryant and actually talk to people who knew the history about the neighborhood, about the Hough Riots, why was they marching up and down Hough, things that were there, the mom and pop stores. *And even bartering. Jazz would tell you I teach them about bartering. Which is I want a service from you but I don't have cash, but I can bake cake and you sew. So I say can you make me a dress and I'll bake you a cake. Bartering. And the village mentality, especially the mothers. Where mothers can trust each other again and if I see your child fall, I help them up and you don't come beat me up cause you think I'm hurting your child. Talking to our elders where people can really know - getting the history back out there.*

Mary: I'm wondering what kind of space you envision there being where that kind of thing can be taught?

Iman: **I was thinking a history center could be really cool.**

Verna: Yes a history center - they used to have - right there - Crawford and Hough - **a history museum and they closed it down.**

Iman: Across from the recreation center?

Verna: You know where Thurgood is? It's right there.

Iman: I went there when I was younger, **I wondered what happened to that place.**

Verna: We would go up there and they had a lot of historical things. And getting people to come and pulling people that really need to know off the street. A friend of mine started midnight basketball after her daughter got killed. **Midnight basketball was for the guys who stand out all night who have nothing to do, they play basketball at midnight. The centers were opened and they played. She got the idea from someone in Chicago. If we can get something like that cause people don't have nothing to do,** but these things have to be - for lack of a better word - policed, we need the security, because again - everybody is not nice. Getting our community back and I know it'll never go back completely, but I see the world has come together George Floyd, so we can work together to get our community back to that **village** where we take care of each other. Jerry Springer say "take care of yourself and each other" at the end of his show. I don't watch it, but it makes sense. Take care of ourselves and each other.

Sabriyyah: When I grew up, **I used to go to a center called Fatimah. I stayed at that Fatimah center. I learned how to double dutch, I learned how to sew, I learned how to communicate with my own friends, older adults. I seen working moms and fathers go to work, help their children with their homework, we kept our neighborhood clean.** In this day and time, you don't see that no more. You see a mixture, like where I stay at. You see older people working in they gardens and that's a beautiful thing. I take my one year old and 10 year old to see them working on their gardens. I also see my black men bumping their music, their pants down, wearing flip flops - going outside. It's like our men and sisters don't care how we walk outside

no more. Back in the day, my mom looked beautiful walking outside. Now a days its like we don't have honor and respect about ourselves. Mothers in their 30s and 40s dress like teenagers. Stretch pants look like stockings. That's the kind of neighborhood I don't want my daughters to be in. Even though I teach them about civilization and to love yourself and care about yourself, you still gonna pick up what you see in your neighborhood. I see that with my boys. One day they know to wear tennis shoes, ***you wear tennis shoes at all times - in case you have to run.*** But now they done got comfortable playing flip flops and that's not how I want to my children to think that's okay. Being comfortable with wearing your pants down. Dress accordingly how your parents taught you. But the community teach you also. That's what I'm saying. So no matter how hard you teach your children, **the community is teaching your children also**, so they gonna do what they see. The vision is everything to these little ones. In my dream neighborhood - **I wanna go back to those street lights. Back to those corner stores where my kids can go to the corner store and be able to afford penny candy. A bag of chips for 25 cents. Going to a center that they can have activities to go to, such as learning to show, art activities, going back to those games we used to play when I was small.** Now a days, I'm hearing my children say that "Im bored" and it's like you small, you should never be bored. **I used to rollerblade, skate, ride my bike. Go connect with a friend. Go to the playground. My mother took me to the park, but I was able to do things on my own, because of what the neighborhood provided. Where she can work and she can be at peace knowing that the neighborhood is safe. I have to be with my children all the time in this day and time and no it'll never go back to how it used to be, but at least they have something to live for because again - vision for our little girls and little men is very important. Unity. We need unity.** Especially ou neighbor. Love your neighbor and I see why you have to love your neighbor, because I do not want to be surrounded by someone who has issues or grudges or can't get along with each other. Then it's like you laying down next to an enemy. It's all about civilization and teaching your children to stay out the way. I'm struggling to give them what I had and it was a lot cause it was in the 80s, but imagine what my mother had when she grew up. The 80s thats when stuff was starting to really happen, but i do the best I can for these girls. **The church is still there, on 79th, I don't know if they still got a playground in they parking lot - but I used to go there and play all the time, all summer and as a teenager - I could go and play by myself and they had different activities for the children to do, so I was never, ever bored growing up.**

Iman: **I agree with the centers. I went to Fatimah a couple times before. I agree with having a center with other classes there as they get older like finances and financial literacy. Things that they're actually gonna need as they grow up and of course they're gonna learn it from their parents too, but i think its important for them to have places to go where they can talk to professionals and college prep and having those things right in our area because otherwise you have to pay for a tutor and get other people to help you with that stuff and it can be expensive. It would be nice to have those things available to the community, right in the community. Things like yoga centers. I personally wanna have a healing sanctuary where people can come and do yoga and guided meditation and how to cook and incorporate healthy lifestyles and transition into stuff like that. Herbal shops for people to come and decompress from the stress they go through at home or things they go through as life. As being black people who have experienced a lot of different things - traumas and triggers and family things passed down. It would be nice cause you never know where people are coming from so having things where they can come and learn things they may**

**have been disadvantaged from learning in their home life. Reiki. Massages. Decompress and tune into mind, body, and soul and learn about chakras and yoga and healthy eating and so on and so forth.**

Daniel: When we're talking about healing, there's the wholistic healing and as I think about that neighborhood, **I am recalling that there are no mental health doctors, physicians, dentists on the street.** Would that be helpful? **Instead of having to go way out for essential services.**

Iman: Oh, my God. Yes.

Jazzmine: Yes, yes, yes! **I agree for the doctors and dentists. Especially for me and my kids. We have to go all the way to Cleveland Heights cause there aren't any around here - so I agree.**

Verna: **Ocean Dental was right there on 79th and Euclid. It was there for years and then all of a sudden, it was gone. You do still have Neon up there, but that's all you have and getting an appointment in there and being seen in there is like you know. We have University Hospital, but *they're always tearing stuff down. If you want something decent, you shouldn't have to travel.*** Especially mental health is so important. We do have a lot to learn to breathe and meditate even a mother having a bad day and next thing you know, we see them on the news and they hurt they child or hurt somebody. If they had a holistic center or somewhere to go to do some yoga, some meditation, learn about healing - then you can go home and you say now I know how to deal with you. ***I shouldn't have to travel all the way out to Mentor to get my eyes checked. Get our neighborhoods back for us again so we can take care of us again.***

Verna: **Even if we had someone teaching our babies how to bake cookies. We had a center. We used to have the *Salvation Army* on the corner of 90th and Superior. We learned how to play music and connect with your peers. We had fun there. Even if we had something as simple as that.**



## Women's Group (Led in tandem with Mrs. Allen)

Topic: E66 St. TLCI

Location: Zoom

Participants: 6

Demographic: Middle to upper-middle aged women living on or near E66 St. Most women knew each other or knew of each other on the call (they are neighbors). Many of them are retired.

Majority are married to men and have adult children. All identify as African American.

### Overarching Themes & Quotes:

- *A variety of affordable, but excellent housing is needed in the neighborhood*

Quote: “We need to have a variety of affordable, but excellent housing in our neighborhood to make it grow for all income levels.”

- *Restore communal spaces that build relational wealth (ex. Salvation Army, Pool on Linwood & E. 66, greenspaces)*

Quote: “When we got down to Hough there was a pool, right there at League Park... We loved that pool. There was never any trouble and they kept it clean”

Quote: “We need more eyes on the street”

- *Provide neighbors with more things to do in the neighborhood*

Quote: “I like places where people can gather. An old-fashioned coffee shop, with poetry nights, movie nights, something like that”

- *Build art that reflects the rich history of the neighborhood (ex. Statues, walking history tour)*

Quote: “Because there are so many artistic people in the community and so many people have contributed to the community, I’m thinking of greenspace and statues and Mrs. XXXX has a wonderful voice for people to click on a recording that would be representative of the statue or the space.”

- *We need better lighting on the street – lighting that creates ambiance, is historic & aesthetic*

Quote: “We should change the lighting, not just think about security lighting, but we should do an ambiance type of lighting, such as the old lighting you would see on the street where you could hang your plants or flags from the lighting.”

- *We need better Internet Access*

Quote: "Internet is terrible in the neighborhood. It's an industry problem. They haven't upgraded the infrastructure, so even if you have wifi it runs slowly. We need to be ready for 5G."

- *Chester Avenue is loud. Consider Chester in relation to Neighborhood growth.*

Quote: "Once you hit Chester, it's just like a noise boom. That's something we want to look at too, once you populate an area, that will bring on a change."

### **Housing:**

"We need to have a variety of affordable, but excellent housing in our neighborhood to make it grow for all income levels."

### **Art, History, & Culture:**

"We need more eyes on the street"

"When we first moved on E66, we were coming from the Buckeye area... when we got down to Hough there was a pool, right there at League Park. My children and I used to walk to the pool, it was really hot the first couple of summers. We loved that pool. We were really excited that we had a pool. There was never any trouble and they kept it clean, for the most part. It was a very good experience for us. And we miss the pool, hint hint (laughter). It was on Linwood and E66." (What happened to the pool? → "League Park")

Loved the museums and spent lots of time at Karamu. I remember this as being a very rich area. Then when I got a little bit older, there was the night life. I remember Cedar Avenue, just, it was a very thriving community and there were so many places I remember, going to the ice cream store or to Carlos Pizza. So many of my friends lived in the area. I want that to come back and to recognize a piece of the people who kept it all together.

Because there are so many artistic people in the community and so many people have contributed to the community, I'm thinking of greenspace and statues and Mrs. XXXX has a wonderful voice for people to click on a recording that would be representative of the statue or the space. That's what I'm envisioning. Something that's a reminder and historic.... We have a very rich history, I would like to see it incorporated in some fashion.

I'm a former educator. Literacy is my big focus here. I have two little free libraries that I service and then I work with Wade Park Elementary as a Volunteer... Article about principal who took group of kids to help clean up post protests

### **Lighting**

We should change the lighting, not just think about security lighting, but we should do an ambiance type of lighting, such as the old lighting you would see on the street where you could hang your plants or flags from the lighting. The lights that have the polls coming on the sides... we want something technologically works well, but the style would create more of an ambiance and peacefulness walking down the street. The lighting should have a level of artistry and come from a more peaceful point of time. → Maybe it could even be solar.

Poll lamps that blend in with the homes on the street – one's that show there's someone living here.

### **More uses in the neighborhood:**

"Coffee shops, places where people can gather. Maybe the place could have poetry nights and music nights."

"I like places where people can gather. An old-fashioned coffee shop, with poetry nights, movie nights, something like that"

"I wish somebody would come with a homemade pizza shop."

"Anytime we need to buy or do something, through no fault of the community, we have to go to another community, for example, a cleaner's and a high-quality hair salon"

"I'm very happy with the new Dave's. That's what I mean by a nice higher quality place to shop"

"When we first moved here, we used to have a Baskin Robbins. They claim it didn't get business, but that wasn't true. It was always busy and standing room only. I'm not sure why it closed."

### **Chester Avenue:**

"Once you hit Chester, it's just like a noise boom. That's something we want to look at too, once you populate an area, that will bring on a change."

### **Internet:**

"Internet is terrible in the neighborhood. It's an industry problem. They haven't upgraded the infrastructure, so even if you have wifi it runs slowly. We need to be ready for 5G."

"We need an internet tower and more support for people who can't afford internet."

## Young Adult Session (Led by Daniel & Joi)

### Rough Transcription

**Tell a story about your favorite memory either on east 66th street or in the neighborhood or your neighborhood.**

Sonya:

It was during the 90s when 66th was like an inferno. In front of the old 66th bar hanging out. It was my first run in with law, i was hanging out with all the dudes and everybody standing in front of the bar. The police pull up and gave me a ticket for impeding the flow of traffic. I was like what in the world is that but **it was like one of the hot day everybody hanging out just doing our one two in our 20s. And ever since then it was like that turn just stuck in my head but it was just a great day hanging out. It was really like a hot spot catching all the gossip down there everybody running in getting drinks.** Everybody was out there so even though that wasn't my neighborhood that's kinda where i started my young hot girl roots down on 66th. So that was one of my most favorite days. I thought it was just a great chill day, ended up getting a ticket but it was still a great day.

Daniel: Did you feel safe?

Sonya:

Oh yeah! I knew everybody out there and everyone knew me. That was my circle of you know age group. I knew that i was kinda sneaking outa the realm of my upbringing tryna hang out with my lil dope boy boyfriend at the time. For 66th even though it was like an inferno I felt safe in that community with the people even though they was doin whatever they was doing. It was fun for me. I felt safe. I didn't feel no type of way cuz everybody had they point person. So you already knew what the rules was. If you coming over here you already know what it is. Girls go this way guys go that way. If you of age you go on in the bar. But i aint have that opportunity cuz it was such a nice day and everybody was just hanging out but i definitely felt safe. Safer than today. You know so it was safe. Belvedere in the ally way.

Kalila:

So I didn't grow up in this neighborhood. I grew up in the collinwood area and went to collinwood highschool. I moved over here in 2015 but i still have made some good memories over here and it goes to the point that was made about safety. I have two small girls. A 2 year old and a 6 year old and they love to go outside cuz it's been warm recently. And with the quarantine they have been able to go outside and what i do appreciate about my neighborhood now is the neighbors I've come to know. And I appreciated that when I grew up. **We were all close knit. We would go outside and play hopscotch and get some chalk. Nobody had to worry about "is somebody gonna take my kid", "is somebody watching my child", etc. you just felt safe and at home and i'm starting to get that feeling here. I recently planted a garden in my front yard and my neighbor across the street brought flowers over. He came over a second time and put his chair in the front yard. And he's about 70 years old. But it was just**

**the interaction that I enjoyed and the feeling of community to have my neighbor out there, my kids out there, my husband and we are in the front yard working. We don't have to worry about "oh is it okay for us to sit out here, is it okay for us to be out front?" So I'm feeling more secure in my home, especially living right on Hough.**

Tiffany:

I have a lot of good experiences. I'm 34 and have been here since I was about 8. So I have a lot of good experiences in the neighborhood but most of my experiences that stand out come from disobeying my parents rules about not leaving my street. So my dad wanted me to stay on 73rd and not leave 73rd. But like I liked to go wherever I wanted to go so I would get on my bike and ride usually down to 66th and around and up and down on the street with the boys in my neighborhood. My mom lives on Renaissance place that's where I was raised so it was very easy to kinda get stuck with just the kids right there cuz we knew each other. But oftentimes we would sneak away and go find people on other streets. And we would go over to, well now Lee Park is an actual baseball field, but it wasn't then it was grass and a swimming pool. So we would go sneak over there and I don't think I realized that my hair curls up when I get in the water so I can't really sneak and go to the pool. Think my mom figured out that's what I did a couple of times. But we would, we would get on our bikes, I would sneak my swimsuit under my clothes, get on our bikes and go over to the pool. And that was life and I would try to stay outside long enough for my hair to dry. My mom didn't realize it but it never worked... we were sad when the pool closed but I was a little older by that time and I was like this place is nasty. Why are we even touching this water. So I was a little sad cuz it was like you know history, it was so many memories for so many people. But I was also like I would not touch my pinky toe in this water anymore. It was just not taken care of and I'd rather it be somewhere that is. I have a lot of

those memories of doing things I wasn't allowed to do. Like sneaking in the corner store cuz I wasn't allowed to do that either.

I did not know that there was a pool where Lee Park is

Tiffany:

Yeah it was on the linwood side. But it stayed in that same square. Like right where that diamond was. It was nasty but it was fun

But it was in a community and people could access it and have a good time

Tiffany:

And I thought it was cool cuz I was easy for us to be- we had a lot of difficulties first moving down here in the 90s cuz a lot of people were like "ew uppity black folks coming down here tryna take over" A lot of them didn't know we was black at first, they thought it was white people moving i they neighborhood building big houses. But we saw those types of things as opportunities. Like this is/was our neighborhood. My family was raised on Addison. This is our neighborhood. We just came up a little bit more. Like no difference between me and you. We

were all in the neighborhood but nobody knew you so because nobody knew you they were feeling some kinda way. But once they got to know us we never had any problems. And we never had any problem with feeling safe or anything like that. When we first moved here I remember my friends from the heights were like “those people will break into your house”. No. I remember being a kid and talking to the prostitutes out my window who were standing on Hough. They were nice. I was supposed to be asleep and they was on the street and I was yelling out the window talking to them. I remember a couple of trans prostitutes on that street and that was my first exposure to anyone in the trans community. I remember asking my mom like what's happening outside. There was no trans language then and she was like “they are probably a boy that likes to wear girl clothes” and I was like oh that's cool. I was 9-10. And I just kept talking to them at like 2am.

Alana:

I didn't grow up in hough but I used to love hough. And about 10 years ago was my first real introduction. So I grew up catholic and I grew up mostly in east cleveland, collinwood, I went to shaw. But I went to St. Adelbert church and they closed St. Adelbert. We were black catholics and that is a very distinct designation that we hold on to. So as a church community we had to decide

which other black catholic church we would go to. And there were only three other parishes and the next one over was fatima. And that was my intro into Hough. And it was the most amazing experience ever because they were so affirming and open to all people. Their sense of community and the things that I found out they were doing in the community to help people and they had a social justice ministry that I became quickly involved in to the point that when I came home originally from college I knew that I wanted to live in hough because I wanted to be connected to that type of community. Because I saw people from the community who were not necessarily catholic but they were still able to come here and be a part and how they were still doing things for people despite whatever circumstances, whether they came to church or not. So that was my biggest intro and it made me know at that moment that I didn't wanna live anywhere else in cleveland. That I wanted to live in Hough.

**As you think about east 66th street or as you think about your neighborhood, how would you redesign that street so that it feels safer to you?**

Kalila:

**Streetlight. The ones you see in the suburbs that are in the front grass and have that nice light amp that hang over into the street. Bright colors. We have a building over here that someone painted but it's black. We have yellow houses and bright colors but when you see something dark in the neighborhood and it's not brightening it up it takes that feeling away of safety. We need bright colored buildings. Better lighting, greenery, abandoned buildings that need to be torn down.** Of course there are things being done in this neighborhood that people are doing aesthetically. But when you still have these lingering homes and buildings that are not torn down it just takes away from what is already happening.

Sonya:

I agree with the lighting cuz the lighting is a perception of safety. Im 50/50 on the tear down but we need to learn how to build back up. We have a lot of youth, we have a lot of re-entry, we have a lot of people with skills but necessarily skills for corporate america. We cant talk about hough without talking about ms louis because she had a program for kind of like a youth build. So it was like youth re entry, adult build to really kinda build back up some of those things because some of those buildings, well a few, one or two, are still structurally sound when it comes to being a brick. So we need to show the youth how to take pride like our parents did, especially like the allens to say hey we coming back and we putting our feet down and staying in this community and ima get in everybody face and ima make sure everybody is educated and knows what's going on. Just like our parents taught us. So just on my street, i'm a new home owner of 2 years. So on my street, when I see trash, because I was taught, I pick it up. I don't care if it's across the street, over ms johnson house, over at the dope man's house or wherever. Because you have to teach and reteach people how to take care of things. And I just think along the way that people have lost that because hough has been thrown in the back fire for so long.

Daniel:

Thinking about safety is about talking to the neighbors that we don't always get a chance to talk to. And talking to them in a way that's not only comfortable for the woopy woos but also for the everyday people. And that's going to bring more safety.

Alana:

Bring back block parties, bring back street grandmas. That is a really big deal. If you know that you can have a small daycare or a program on east 66th and there's a grandma and a young child and they are reading to each other. Different activities that are really building a sense of community that are getting neighbors to talk to each other. And they are not these big fancy programs. It's literally like grandma used to read archie comics and these kids read avengers and now lets have them read to each other and bridge a generational gap. What does that do. Because I think for safety I feel safe when I know people. I feel safe when I know my neighbors. When I know that I can walk down the street and if I have a flat tire you're not gonna rob me but youre gonna say "yo do you need a ride to the gas station to put some air in your tire". That is to me what safety is. And bringing back those neighborhood gatherings. That, I think, would do so much.

**Is there a way in any of your minds that the street could be designed so that the design of the street creates the community you're looking for?**

Sonya:

Bringing the buildings closer to the street as opposed to-what i learned in real estate is the most racist thing in any big city- when they put landscaping and things around to keep you out. So on 66th instead of having the buildings back and having so much landscaping in front, bring the buildings closer, that's more inviting. So that would be a way to have that perception of safety and have that perception of community.

Alana:

I also think when you do that, like Renaissance place. So like you have something like that like a green space and in certain communities i've seen wher they will even institute a grill that's already there. It sends a message when you go to the parks or go to those places like "oh this is a place where people can just grill" like it gives you a sense that we can be outside. I think a lot of our homes no longer have porches, which I don't understand what happened to no longer having a porch. But when we had houses with porches people were outside more and you talk to people more. So even thinking about new developments. Are we building porches, are we building something or a deck where people will be outside where they are sitting and they get to know their neighbors.

Tiffany:

If we are going to make space, if we are going to develop, we need to make space that is inclusive. We can't even call them and ask them if we can do a neighborhood day. They'll say no. They won't do it. It's money. They won't do it. We tried. So i think that when we think about spaces, when we think about green space, when we think about interactive space, i don't know if you guys have the opportunity to go to Backspot over on Kinsman but inside there's like a little theater. It's got little cement seats and a space where there can be a stage right there. Already built into this little space. It's not a lot of square footage, it's not a lot of money. Surround it with some grass and a grill or two and you have a place where people know "oh this is open for me to come and play my music and have a block party and do whatever." and of course you have to have someone to coordinate it but it should still be something there i can be like "oh on saturday we going up to the park." So that's a thing for me is just i want development because that was promised to me when i was 8 years old when i moved here, is that i wouldn't miss any of the things from cleveland heights. And I'm missing some stuff. And i'm gonna sit here until i get the stuff that i want. But i also know that if we are going to develop, we can't just leave gaps, we can't tear down a building and just leave it empty. We have to be able to build something that's useful for our community. Even if it is green space, which is great, it should be accessible green space.

Lee Park was closed off and resigned in 2012. They had a news channel thing they did interviews of residents in Hough around Lee Park. I remember cuz my parents were in the interview and we got to go down to the mayor's office to watch the interview before it got published. And that was right when they had finished the whole design. Yeah tv 20. And they also had the whole map of the neighborhood with developed housing and businesses up on 66th that was the 2020 plan for the city of cleveland development up on the wall and i was like "hm..interesting. Interesting to see you guys already have my neighborhood developed and we ain't have nothing to say about it. But okay"

And another thing is, I ride my bike, so for me to be safe I need a bike lane. I hate Hough. It's not two lanes, it's one lane. There's no two lane line. I'm getting frustrated because when people drive, they drive like there are two lanes, but it's not wide enough to be two full lanes. And people get annoyed when it's one. So you need one lane and a bike lane on Hough. Makes the most sense. You just have to repave the street. You don't have to push anything back. It just



makes the most sense. Other cities like Columbus, you can go from one side of the suburb all the way on the east to the other side all the way on the west on your bike, on a trail, without ever having to cross through regular highways or byways and you're safe.

Joi:

So why did they close it off? Cuz I keep hearing people say stuff like "Yeah a lot of people in the neighborhood aren't utilizing Lee Park" but before the close off were there more people utilizing the park. So, if that's the case I'm trying to figure out what happened.

Tiffany:

So, it's a historic landmark. So, it was protecting a historic area. It used to be where the Indians played and it was where the Negro leagues played. So it was really about bringing the history back, and actually repurposing it as a baseball diamond. Which is great, but they never told us when they were doing it that it wasn't going to be accessible by the community. We thought it was going to be baseball diamonds that we could access and play kickball or whatever. And of course they were gonna have formal games and visitors from other places because it's a historical landmark. But they never stated that it was something we wouldn't be able to participate in.

## Fatima Engagement (65 people including adults, seniors, youth, teens)

Date Collected	Location	Format	Response	Category/Theme	Age Group
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream for the violence to stop the murders will"	Peace/Anti Violence	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream about everyone being one no fighting no any of that."	Peace/Anti Violence	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream (sic) change? violence. Bennett. Cleveland, Ohio	Peace/Anti Violence	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream that Cleveland will stop the killing and stop being mean to others"	Peace/Anti Violence	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream that every human will be one. That we all realize that happiness comes from within."	Peace/Anti Violence	N/A
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream that our world be together and grow together"	Peace/Anti Violence	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream is for youth of today learn to respect each other. Learn to Learn from old people."	Peace/Anti Violence	N/A
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream about kids being nice"	Peace/Anti Violence	Youth

2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream that everybody will be nice to everybody."	Peace/Anti Violence	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream that everybody"	Peace/Anti Violence	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream to become a NP, Birth Doula. Neonatal Nurse & LSD nurse. No longer be divided, love each other. Stop violence, murdering and hate for one another	Multiple - Personal Dreams; Peace/Anti Violence	Adult
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream African Americans will be able to live in Peace without a lot of Kaos"	Peace/Anti Violence	N/A
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream may peace to everyone"	Peace/Anti Violence	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream for world peace"	Peace/Anti Violence	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream to love one another"	Peace/Anti Violence	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream to be great, do great things, be a great help to mankind, and leave a great legacy"	Peace/Anti Violence	Adult
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American	Written	"I have a dream for world peace"	Peace/Anti Violence	Youth

	History Program				
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream it will become a reality! That the Gospel would come to Hough. The community of Hough would have housing & resources. We black people can fight injustice. Hope, Love, Life, Community	Multiple - Oppression, Religion, Housing, Resources,	Adult
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream to be rich and help homeless. Racist to end now.	Eliminate Oppression	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream that I really know that race didn't end but if it comes back I will be ready."	Eliminate Oppression	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream that all races will become as one and racism will stop. that all children despite the race they all will be able to enroll in any school that they choose	Eliminate Oppression	Adult
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream that one day my brothers and sisters will rise above oppression and the mental incarceration that has been placed on us. Though religious doctrine and spiritual enslavement"	Eliminate Oppression	N/A
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream that we can live in harmony together. That racism will be completely gone. For better streets. Safer Community. Clean streets.	Multiple - Peace, Eliminate Oppression, Street Improvement	Adult
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream our community will change for the better"	Community Change	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream one day me in my girls be out of cleveland living the best life and wish the city was better"	Community Change	N/A
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African	Written	"I have a dream that one day we will have our own country paved by Akon City Africa"	Community Change	N/A

	American History Program				
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream that park with your brother"	Parks & Environment	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream to go to park with your brother to have a good time."	Parks & Environment	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream to someday enjoy our ecosystem and environment without pollution."	Parks & Environment	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream that one I will have 3 billion dollars"	Economic Justice	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream we all can get 1 million dollars and buy all the white properties"	Economic Justice	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream for social, political, and economic justice for Black Americans"	Multiple - Economic Justice; Eliminate Oppression	Adult
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream that one day we will own our own business! That we will be debt free! That we will make it in! (Heaven)"	Multiple - Economic Justice; Religious	Adult
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream of big toy"	Economic Justice	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center -	Written	"I have a dream that my dream will come true"	Personal Dreams	Adult

	African American History Program				
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream that I can honor Martin."	Personal Dreams	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream (shapes) ABC, 123"	Personal Dreams	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream that one day one of my sons will become president. I have a dream"	Personal Dreams	N/A
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream Imma make it. And life."	Personal Dreams	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream le I had a African American would be good and invening stuff"	Personal Dreams	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream that I make the NBA"	Personal Dreams	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream that I will be the President of the United States."	Personal Dreams	Youth
2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream (drawing)"	Personal Dreams	Youth

2/25/20	Fatima Family Center - African American History Program	Written	"I have a dream (letters)"	Personal Dreams	Youth
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## Narrative Summary

### **Narrative Consistency Across both Youth Focus Groups**

1. A street that attracts youth and families
2. A street that unifies all of Hough
3. A street that feels like “Black Avenue”
4. Murals/words of affirmation and culturally-responsive images
5. Tables and benches
6. Outdoor workout equipment, basketball courts, and open green spaces for play
7. Mounted barbecue pits
8. Walkable, with a section with no car entry
9. Bicycle trails
10. The return of a Recreation Center
11. Street well-lit

**Walkable trail > signage > historical and cultural relevance > Hough/Wade Park/Glenville**



**Narrative Consistency Across Focus Groups**

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Youth</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Mothers</b>	<b>E. 66th St. Residents</b>
A street that is designed to attract youth and families	X	X	X	X
A street that is designed to unify all of Hough	X	X	X	X
A street that invites intergenerational gathering	X	X	X	X
A street that is well-maintained	X	X	X	X
A street that does not feel like a concrete jungle	X	X	X	X
A street with parks with equipment that is regularly maintained	X	X	X	X
A street that feels like “Black Avenue”	X	X	X	X
A street with lots of murals, words of affirmation, and culturally-responsive images	X	X	X	X
A street with bright colors	X	X	X	X
Easy access to garbage cans along the street to encourage cleanliness	X	X	X	X
A street with tables and benches	X	X	X	X
Mounted barbecue pits	X	X	X	X

Walkable, with a section with limited car traffic	X	X	X	X
Bicycle paths	X	X	X	X
The return of a recreation center	X	X	X	X
A well-lit street	X	X	X	X
Opening up the use of League Park to the community	X	X	X	X
Police cameras along the street		X	X	