

DRAFT April 10, 2015

What We Agree On:

Restore participation of the community in city sanctioned development to ensure that development efforts are equitable. We want our voice on issues impacting our community. There is much value in a community-driven process.

EQUITABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

1. We desire an economically and racially mixed neighborhood, and believe that market forces with no controls will not sustain such a neighborhood. All people from all walks of life bring a richness and quality to the fiber of life in Over-the-Rhine. This quality is often the attraction of new people and businesses moving into Over-the-Rhine. Let us not sacrifice the diversity we have by pricing people out of the market, particularly African American families with low incomes. It is time for the City to have policies, controls, legislation and incentives in place to ensure the diversity that makes Over-the-Rhine, Over-the-Rhine. We, the residents, want our voice and experience to plan collaboratively with all stakeholders to develop Over-the-Rhine equitably without displacement and no net loss of affordable housing.
2. The Over-the-Rhine Comprehensive Plan of 2002 calls for a monitoring system to provide an annual count of housing units and their income type. This goal has not been met. Having this data will aid city leaders to direct the activities of all developers in the neighborhood to achieve the desired economic and racial diversity.

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES

3. As Over-the-Rhine residents witness more manufacturing, retail, hospitality and service jobs coming to Over-the-Rhine, the opportunity is ripe for current residents to benefit. Many of our residents are seeking and welcome job training and workforce and employment opportunities to better connect with the development going on in the neighborhood. Local businesses benefit from hiring local people because the investment stays in the neighborhood and workers are grounded in the community. We the residents of Over-the-Rhine are here to work hand in hand with the City to ensure an equitable economic development plan.

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

4. Investment dollars need to benefit all residents, especially in a neighborhood where many have no cars and rely on public transportation. The majority of the new businesses, bars, restaurants, and shops cater to consumers and visitors who have higher disposable incomes. The entrepreneur who brings to Over-the-Rhine a Laundromat, dry good store, hardware store and restaurants with price points that welcome diverse populations can realize success. We need more places that serve the needs of all residents where we can meet and build community across our differences.