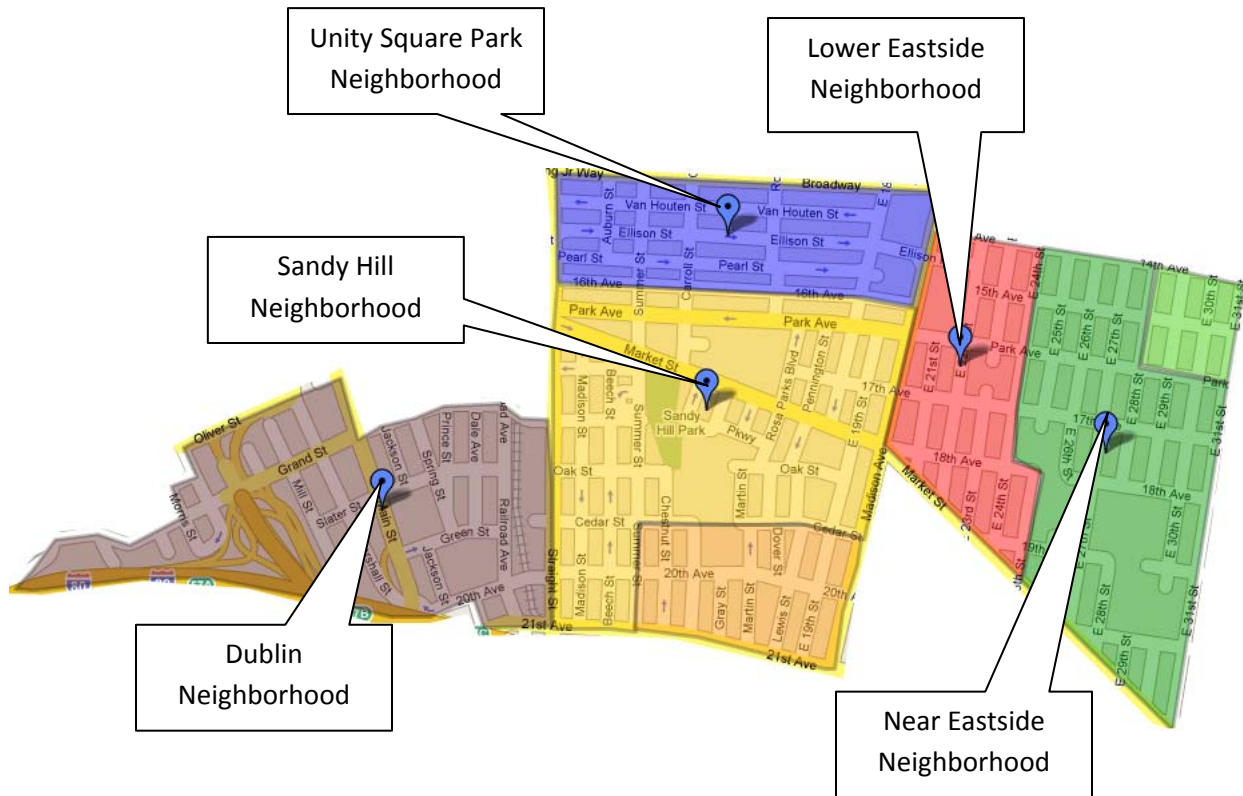


The 5th Ward Speaks Up!



Report of 5th Ward Councilman Julio Tavaréz
Summer 2008 Neighborhood Collaboration Meetings

Report available online at
www.juliotavarez.com/PDF/5th_ward_speaks_2008.pdf



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Introduction

During the first series of Neighborhood Collaboration meetings, the residents of Paterson's 5th Ward have expressed the urgent need to have basic quality of life issues addressed by elected officials. I am humbled and grateful to have been able to take part in these meetings and hear our constituents SPEAK UP on the issues that matter the most to them. As I have stated before, it is my intention to serve the ward, and thus, the city, in a manner that tackles our challenges and makes Paterson the effectively functioning city it should be.

Addressing the complex issues of crime, prostitution, unkept parks, empty lots, open drug markets, absentee landlords, etc., requires more than a joint effort. It requires a partnership of all the stakeholders. An effort of collaboration that will ensure the 5th ward becomes a safe and desirable place to live and work. This is why in order to effectively address the issues brought at these meetings; I collaborated with Paterson Public Schools Assistant Superintendent for Community Services Dr. Joseph Fulmore along with 6th Ward Councilman Andre Sayegh and Council President Bill McKoy.

Collaboration is the key to rebuilding the community. It is the basis of a successful community development model. The collaboration model is characterized by multi-way relationships in which the community stakeholders form partnerships to yield mutually beneficial outcomes. Community stakeholders include residents, non-profit organizations (churches, schools, neighborhood associations, etc.), government agencies, and businesses.

By bringing all stakeholders together to listen, evaluate and work on solutions to problems that affect us all, we will be able to identify priorities and expectations. Building relationships and creating long-term partnerships will lead to action in addressing the needs of residents. It will be the key to the economic, social, cultural, educational and sustainable development of the 5th ward and the city of Paterson.

This will foster a new sense of community ownership — Paterson is our home and we want to take care of it. This has been lacking in the 5th Ward, and that is what I, in collaboration with other members of the Council and the community, will strive to do.

An effective and efficient 5th Ward councilperson should be both legislator and community leader. In order to address issues specific to certain areas, the 5th Ward will be organized by

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neighborhoods and their scope will include neighboring districts and/or wards. Not necessarily for political purposes, but for the purpose of working on issues of common concerns. Political districts are good for sorting out voters, assigning tasks, setting polling sites, etc., but they are not organic as neighborhoods are.

Contrary to political districts that are outlined on a map, neighborhoods develop spontaneously. They become cohesive structures that bind residents of a certain area together, and sometimes take on a name. For instance, the “Near Eastside” neighborhood extends past 31st Street, which is one of the boundaries of the 5th Ward. I plan to not only collaborate with the Near Eastside neighborhood, but I will work closely with 3rd Ward Councilman Bill McKoy to engage the residents of that neighborhood as a whole. It would be a disservice to the 5th Ward, 3rd Ward and to the city of Paterson community to work closely with one neighborhood and ignore the folks that live across the street because they happen to reside in another ward.

By bringing all stakeholders together and collaborating with neighboring wards, we will begin the healing process that is so badly needed. I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to all my supporters for believing in my vision of collaboration, and trusting that I can bring positive change to the 5th Ward and consequently, to the city of Paterson.

As your councilman, my doors are and will always be open to you. I may be reached at 973-321-1256 or at www.JulioTavarez.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julio C. T.', enclosed in a simple black oval.

5th Ward Councilman Julio Tavaréz



Strategy

The 5th ward has many problems. For example, crime, prostitution, unkept parks, empty lots, drugs and list goes on. This is something that every resident of the 5th ward can tell you. But in order to solve these problems, we need a strategy not regurgitation of what the issues are. That strategy is **collaboration**. Please take a look at the Community Collaboration Model below.

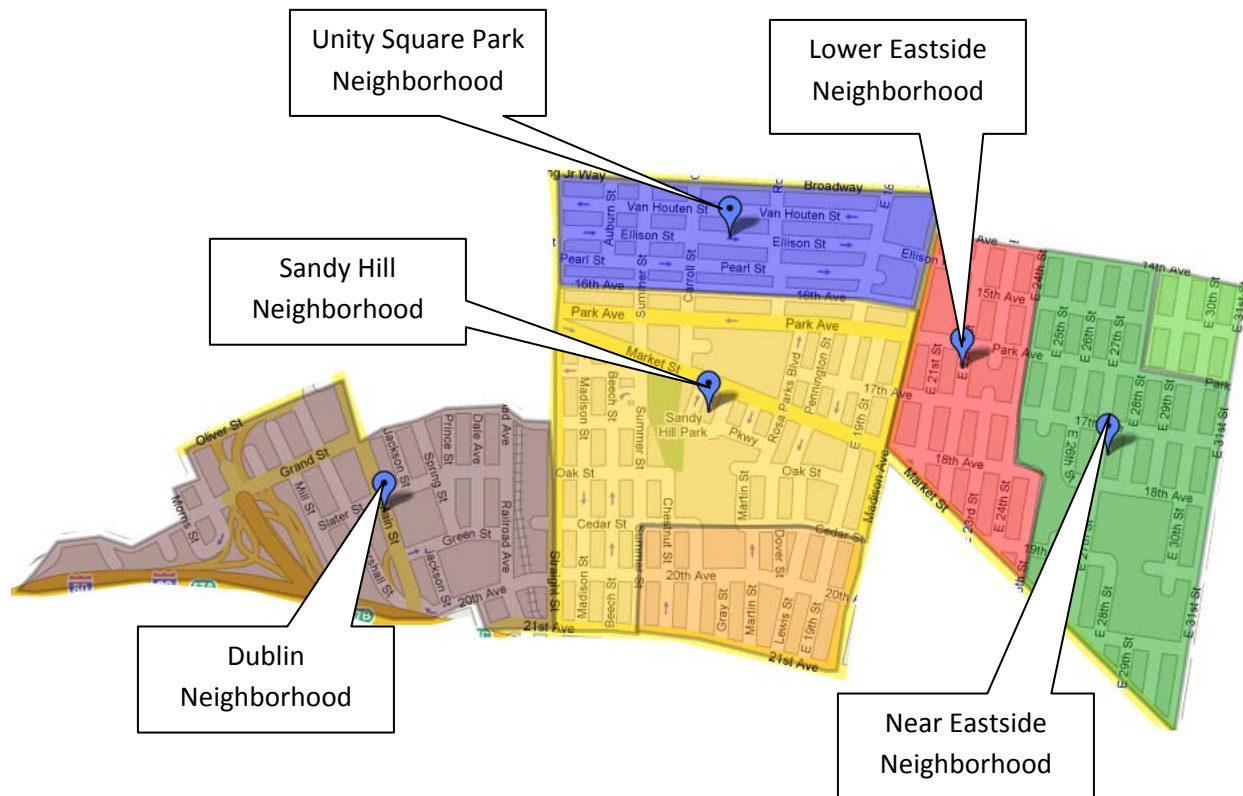


Collaboration is key to all of the community's activities. As you can see, it is the base of the Model and therefore it is crucial for this model to be successful. Collaboration is characterized by multi-way relationships in which the community stakeholders form partnerships to yield mutually beneficial outcomes. Community stakeholders include **residents**, **Non-profit organizations** (Churches, schools, etc), **government agencies**, and **businesses**. By bringing all stakeholders together to listen and work on solutions to problems that affect us all, we are able to **engage the community** to identify priorities, expectations and attitudes; **build relationships** which is about creating long-term partnerships; this will lead into **community development** which is about implementing initiatives and responding to the needs of residents, Non-profit organizations, and businesses; while at the same time, contributing to the economic, social, cultural and sustainable development of the 5th ward and the city of Paterson. This will foster a sense of community ownership - Paterson is our home and we want to take care of it.

Don't think for a second, however, that the Community Collaboration Model implies that creating a sense of collaboration and therefore community development is a simple task to accomplish. It takes dedication, responsibility, determination, accountability, professionalism, integrity and **ENERGY**. This is what is lacking in the 5th Ward, what we need and what I plan to bring to our city via our collaborative efforts.



The 5th Ward Neighborhoods



The 5th Ward is composed of five (5) neighborhoods:

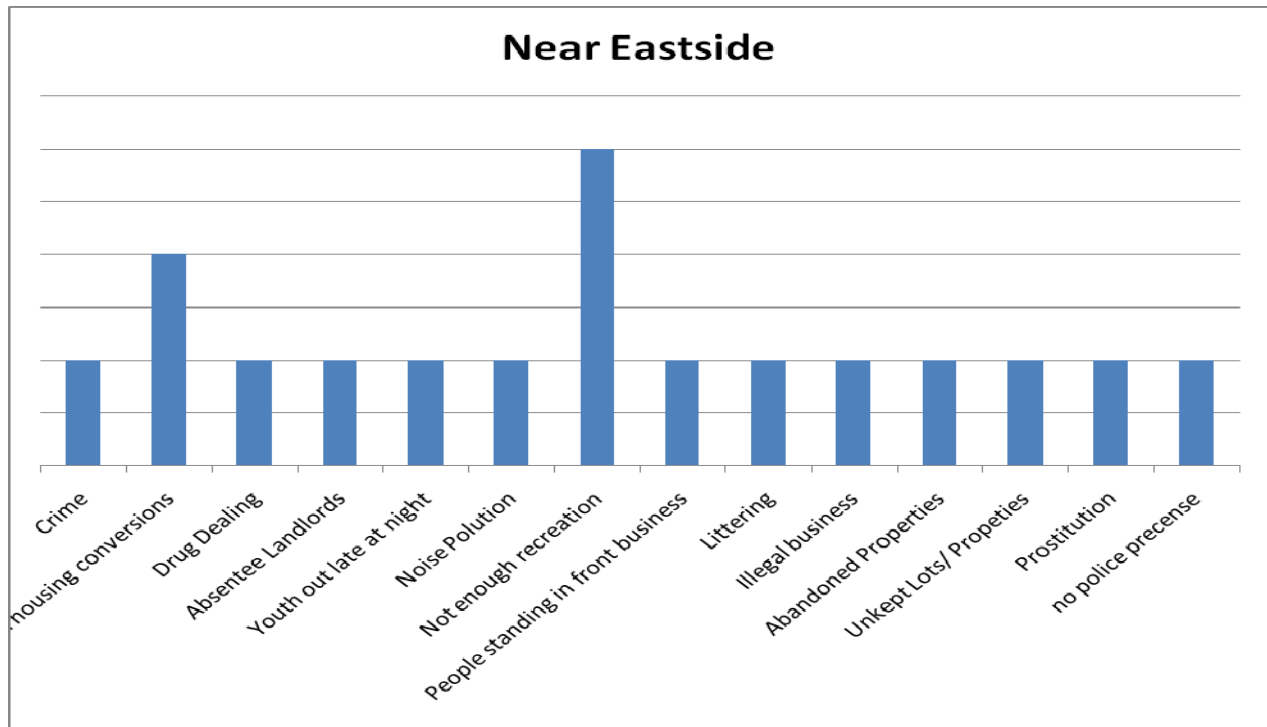
- The Near Eastside Neighborhood
- The Lower Eastside Neighborhood
- The Sandy Hill Neighborhood
- The Unity Square Park Neighborhood
- The Dublin Neighborhood



The Near Eastside Neighborhood



This neighborhood borders the 3rd ward on the east and north side of its 5th ward boundaries. Also, a small section of it is not inside the boundaries of the 5th, but in the 3rd ward; thus, it was decided that we would collaborate with 3rd Ward Councilman and president of the Council Bill McKoy. This would allow us to hear and therefore act upon what residents of this neighborhood felt. Below you will find a graph depicting the issues that were voiced by residents during this neighborhood collaboration meeting. You can also view a detailed description in appendix A.

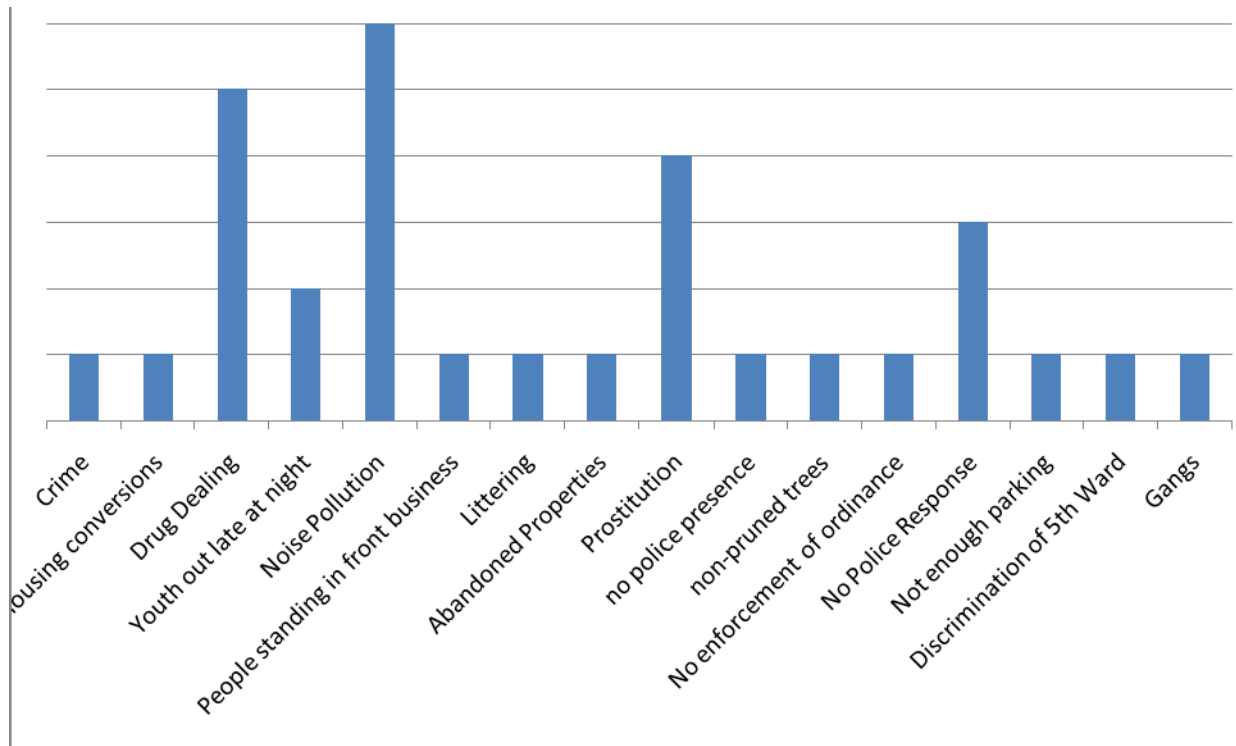


The Lower Eastside Neighborhood



The lower Eastside Neighborhood borders the Near Eastside Neighborhood on the East and the Sandy Hill Neighborhood on the West. Below you will find a graph depicting the issues that were voiced by residents during this neighborhood collaboration meeting. You can also view a detailed description in appendix A.

Lower Eastside

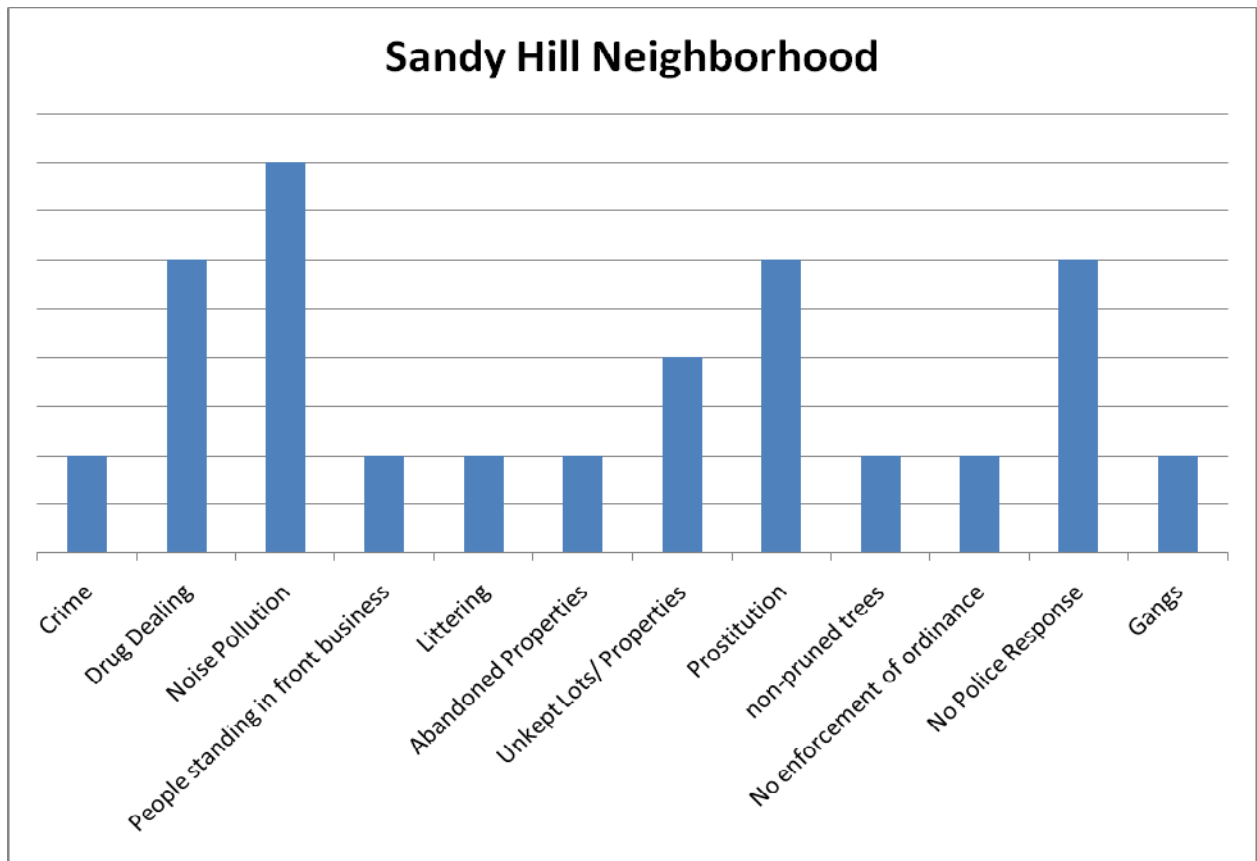




The Sandy Hill Neighborhood



The Sandy Hill Neighborhood is one of the oldest neighborhoods in the city of Paterson. It is located roughly west of Madison Avenue, north of 21st Avenue, south of Park Ave. and east of Straight Street. Due to Paterson's significant population turn-over, this neighborhood is now home to a large Hispanic community, mostly first-generation Dominicans. Roberto Clemente Park, which was originally known as Sandy Hill Park is located in this neighborhood. Below you will find a graph depicting the issues that were voiced by residents during this neighborhood collaboration meeting. You can also view a detailed description in appendix A.



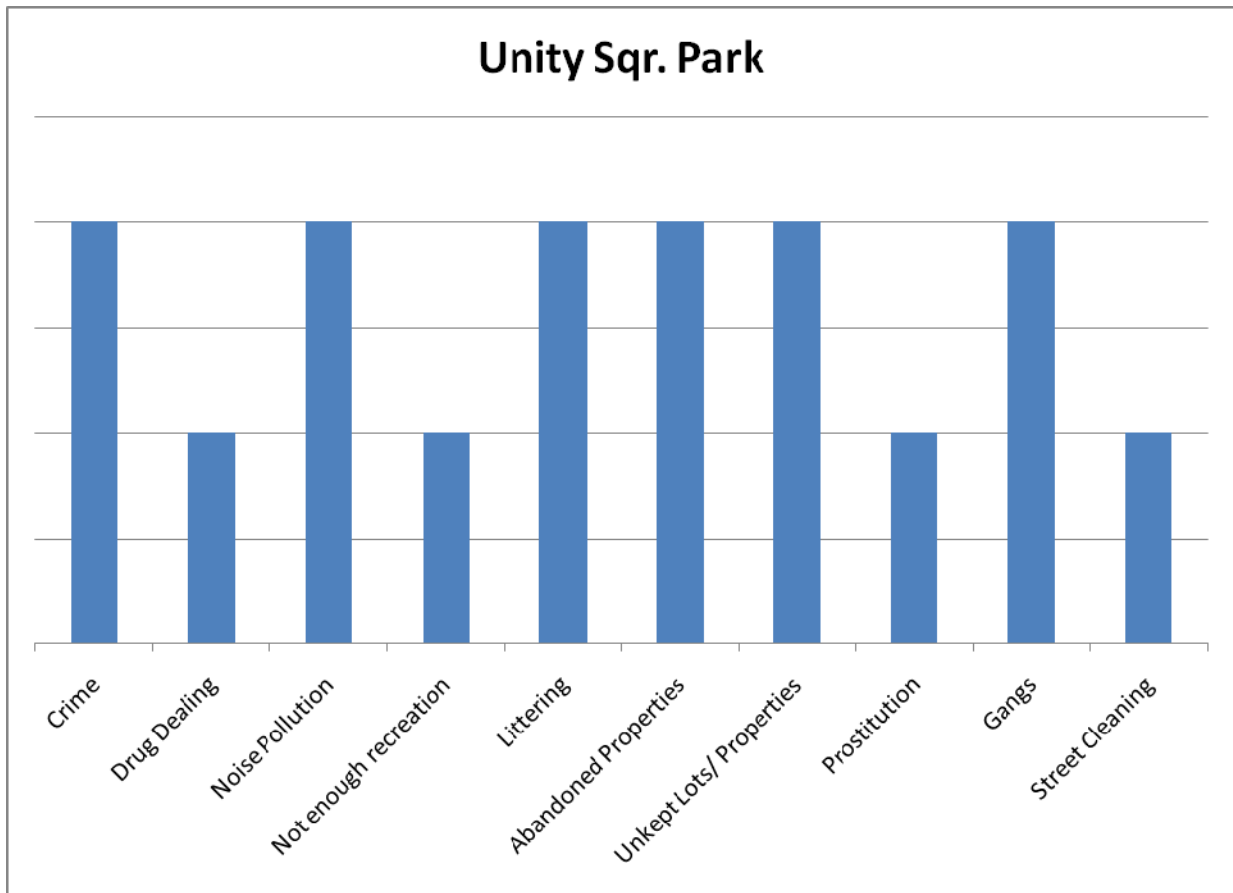


The Unity Square Park Neighborhood



Unity Square Park is adjacent to the Sandy Hill neighborhood. This neighborhood is composed of a multitude of communities – too many to mention here. The neighborhood is pulling

together regardless of the many different ethnicities to make everyone life better. Below you will find a graph depicting the issues that were voiced by residents during this neighborhood collaboration meeting. You can also view a detailed description in appendix A.



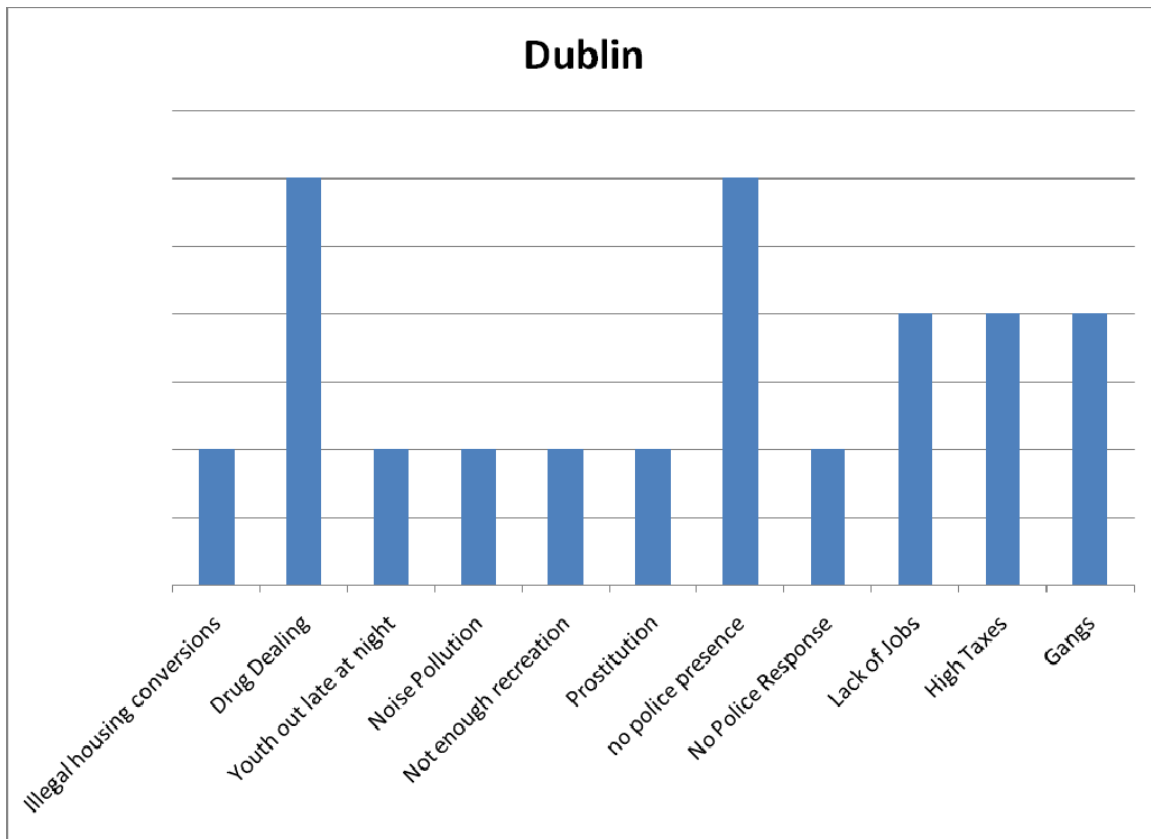


The Dublin Neighborhood



Dublin was Paterson's first distinct neighborhood that grew up around the mills along [Downtown Paterson](#). In the early 1800s there were several mills and machine shops along the Passaic, downriver from the falls. The work force was predominantly Irishmen. Towards the end of the 1800s, the ethnic makeup of the workers included Irish, English,

Scottish and German people. The area today continues to have a diverse ethnic makeup with, Mexican, Nicaraguan, Dominican, Puerto Rican, and Serbian among others. Below you will find a graph depicting the issues that were voiced by residents during this neighborhood collaboration meeting. You can also view a detailed description in appendix A.





Appendix A: Issues Description

Near Eastside Neighborhood

- 1) Crime on 17th Avenue
- 2) 238 17th Avenue is believe to be an illegal housing conversion
- 3) Drug dealing
- 4) Absentee Landlords
- 5) Kids hanging out late at night
- 6) Noise Pollution/ Loud Music / Police says there isn't enough evidence
- 7) Too many kids going to into properties
- 8) No activities or recreation for youth/ Lack of Recreation
- 9) People sitting/ standing in front of businesses
- 10) Littering in front of businesses
- 11) Illegal businesses on 17th Avenue
- 12) Abandoned Industrial building on 28th St and 18th Avenue used for by squatters (Lumber building)
- 13) Unkept homes and lots (East 29th and 17th Avenue)

Lower Eastside Neighborhood

- 1) Abandoned house on East 24th St between Park and 17th Avenue. Suspected of being used to sell drugs
- 2) Tree growing into house at 90 17th Avenue
- 3) Police not enforcing the city's ordinances
- 4) Prostitution/ Loud noise/ Drugs/ Robbery
- 5) Prostitution: Van from NY drops off women around 21st, 22nd, and 23rd St
- 6) No Police presence
- 7) The alleyway in the north side of PS 13 is being used by prostitutes. Call police but did not respond
- 8) Noise pollution: Music being played extremely loud. Call Police, but did not respond
- 9) Excessive loud music.
- 10) Pole on the corner of Market St and East 23rd St needs to be removed before it falls down.
- 11) Prostitution along Market St
- 12) There is not sign at PS 13 informing people that the playground closes at 10PM



- 13) Drug dealing around PS 13.
- 14) People standing in front of businesses.
- 15) Drugs being sold around East 24th st.
- 16) On east 27th and 18th avenue there are condoms, needles, not enough lighting, garbage dumping
- 17) Home subdivisions cause parking problems.
- 18) Yellow house around PS 13 suspected of being used for drug dealing
- 19) Discrimination of 5th Ward residents: other wards received better services than residents
- 20) People using PS 13's playground late at night and there is garbage in front of the school.
- 21) Speeding in front of PS 13. No signs informing motorists that they are in a school zone
- 22) Paving of 18th Avenue
- 23) Drug dealing in the area of east 22nd and Park Avenue.
- 24) People being attacked in the area of East 22nd and Park Avenue
- 25) Gangs

Sandy Hill Neighborhood

- 1) Gangs, drugs on 19th St and Park Ave.
- 2) Loud music, drugs at Madison st and Oak St
- 3) People hanging around late at night making noise and littering. No police response.
- 4) Drugs, loud music in the area of Madison St and Oak st. When police are called, they stated that they are too busy.
- 5) Prostitution on Market st, Madison Avenue, Pennington st and 17th Ave. Loud music
- 6) High crimes around Market St.
- 7) Abandoned home on 468 Market St needs to be boarded up and cleaned.
- 8) Prostitution and loud music around the area of Summer St and Oak St.
- 9) Pennington St between Park Ave and 17th Ave. Loud noise and rowdy behavior. When police were called, they never show up.
- 10) Madison St needs to be paved.

Unity Square Park Neighborhood

- 1) Gangs around Rosa Parks Boulevard and Pearl St.
- 2) Prostitution is out of control, gang activities; street cleaning; recreation; church at the corner Pearl St and Carroll st being used for prostitution; there are needles on the street
- 3) Rosa Parks Boulevard and 16th Ave: There is no light at the corner.
- 4) Ellison St and Rosa Parks need a stop sign or a light; drug problem

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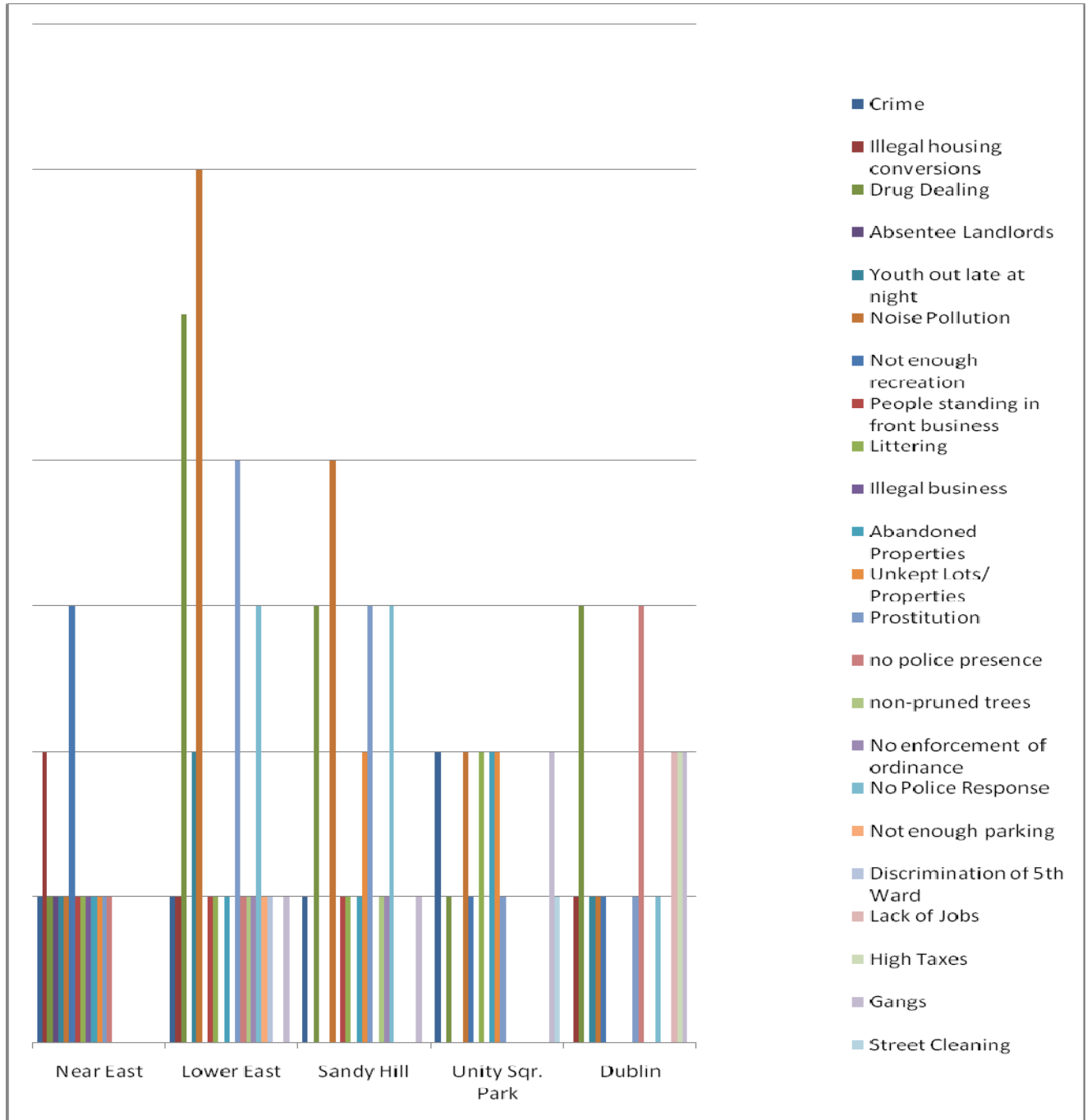
- 5) Stealing bikes
- 6) Littering
- 7) Housing problem: do redevelopment block by block instead of putting new homes next to old ones.
- 8) Police and fire department members do not live in our town.
- 9) Noise pollution
- 10) Empty lots brings rats; vacant lots
- 11) Need benches on bus stops; Camera on 16th Ave and Rosa Parks Blvd.
- 12) Corner of Ellison St and Auburn St by Elks Club; there is a whole lot of noise around this area, drinking in public, littering late at night.

Dublin Neighborhood

- 1) Housing, 5-10 people living under the same roof. More recreation for the kids. Lack of jobs.
- 2) High taxes had to put the rent up because the taxes went up.
- 3) Selling drugs at the Spruce st.
- 4) No lighting at the end of Spruce St.
- 5) Lack of Police presence
- 6) No snow removal
- 7) Water bill hike
- 8) Crime, no recreation, lack of police presence, drugs, prostitution on Mill and Marshall St. Drugs being sold around PS #3. 25 MPH speed limit sign missing and School Zone sign missing on Marshall St.
- 9) High taxes and lack of jobs for teenagers. Drug dealing
- 10) Noise pollution on Main St and Green St because of the bar. Lack of police presence in the St. Martin de Porres Village. There are gangs in the area.
- 11) Drug dealing on Main St, Lack of Police presence; unsupervised youth out late at night.
- 12) Bus stop in corner of Main St and grand St – should be removed since there is another stop just a block away.



Appendix B: 5th Ward Issues Graph





Appendix C: Important Phone Numbers

Emergency	911
Police Department	973-321-1111
Fire Department	973-321-1400
Ambulance	973-321-1407
City Council Office	973-321-1407
City Clerk's Office	973-321-1310
Business Administration Office	973-321-1370
Legal Department	973-321-1366
Finance Department	973-321-1350
Department Public Works	973-321-1488
Human Services	973-321-1242
Community Development	973-321-1212
Parking Authority	973-977-3999
Housing Authority	973-345-5080
Municipal Court	973-321-1515
Museum	973-321-1260
Library	973-321-1223

