FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY:
PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF DETROIT AND NEIGHBORHOODS

VISION

- ✓ Community engagement begins with neighborhood priorities mutually-developed between city government and neighborhoods.
- ✓ All neighborhoods have stakeholder-driven organizations – block clubs, business groups and community development organizations – articulating and advocating the priorities and interests of both the people and places of the neighborhood
- ✓ Stakeholder-driven neighborhood -based organizations and city government are constructive partners in planning and decision-making for overall direction, projects, quality of life and investment in the neighborhood. Both see each other as equal partners, and respect each other's role and perspective.
- ✓ There is a current "Master Plan of Policies" in effect that advances sustainable and equitable development for the city as a whole.
- ✓ Community Engagement strategies conducted by various city departments and city offices are standardized based on best practices.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Neighborhood Representation.** Neighborhoods are best represented by accountable resident-based Stakeholder Organizations and not only Individual Residents. Neighborhoods' priorities and interests are best represented through a process that cultivates voice and input from residents and then interfaces with the city government and developers. City Government honors these Organization(s) as the critical representative(s) of the Neighborhood.
- **Community Engagement Practices Coordinated.** When multiple departments are conducting engagement practices and strategies they should be coordinated whenever possible and carried out in partnership with neighborhood-based organizations.
- **Master Plan as Guide:** City government and Neighborhood Stakeholder Organizations work in partnership to keep the Master Plan reflective of current policy decisions as required by City Charter, reflecting "triple bottom line" principles, and updating the Master Plan every 5 years.
- **Transparent Decision-Making:** City government decision-making processes that affect neighborhoods are transparent especially when certain neighborhoods or corridors or districts are targeted for specific public or private investment.
- **Role of the City:** City government has responsibility as described in the City Charter to update the Master Plan of Policies. In addition, the City has other responsibilities: to perform certain public services, to create policies, and to generate strategies and programs. All of these City government responsibilities should be clear to Detroit residents, and they should understand how to be involved, where appropriate, as the city plays these roles.

Building the Engine of Community Development in Detroit

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Community Development Advocates of Detroit
Michigan Nonprofit Association
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- **Role of the Stakeholder Organizations in the Neighborhood:** These organizations use accountable decision-making practices to ensure that resident priorities are fairly and accurately represented and then they articulate, advocate and discuss this feedback with city government.
- **Equity and Inclusion.** City government and representative organizations, when working together, are committed to the principles of equitable development: economic, environmental, racial, demographic equity and inclusion in the planning process; and benefits accruing especially to the legacy and low income residents of the neighborhood. In the policy formation process, all new policies are evaluated through the prism of race, economic, social and environmental equity to assess the actual and/or probable impact on racial and economic disparities that exist.
- **Formation of city policy or programs.** When city government or quasi-governmental nonprofit organizations generate new or revised policy ideas or program proposals that affect neighborhoods, the policy or program is first widely published, using a wide variety of community tools. Adequate time will be allowed for feedback, so that the new or revised policy is finalized after a reasonable period of time for feedback. When creating policy changes or instituting new programs, the City works with stakeholder-based organizations to receive feedback, and also to validate local information that may help form a policy or program. Equally important City government and stakeholder-driven organizations in the neighborhood work together to educate residents continuously on existing policies, rules, codes and laws.
- **Planning in specific neighborhoods.** When specific neighborhoods are selected by City Government for special investment, City officials meet with representative neighborhood organizations and create ideas together, working in partnership to create and implement neighborhood plans. Final plans are considered completed when there is agreement by consensus or by a vote, with both parties: city officials and representative neighborhood organizations. If there is significant disagreement by either the City government or the representative organization(s), about specific plans for the neighborhood, both the City and the representative organization(s) will continue to work together until an agreement is reached by vote or by consensus.

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