Create Community, Eliminate Blight

NIAGARA FALLS, NY

MY IDEA FOR CHANGE

This project is called the TAP3 3/90 Challenge. Our group, The Memorial Park Neighborhood Block Club (MPNBC), is developing a plan that outlines a number of initiatives aimed at supporting Transparency, Accountability, Performance and Public Participation (TAP³) in local planning processes. The goal of our project is to leverage community-based knowledge in support of planning and code enforcement activities to improve the condition of the Memorial Park Neighborhood in the City of Niagara Falls. One of our key objectives and the challenge we’ve proposed to ourselves, is to have the Common Council adopt some or all of the three initiatives outlined in our plan within 90 days of submission. We envision that these initiatives could complement the upcoming update of the Niagara Falls Comprehensive Plan. The MPNBC has been working for four years to proactively address neighborhood decline through organizing and hosting education and community events. We would like to increase collaboration with the city agencies on planning and enforcement issues.

The plan we are developing outlines three key initiatives:

1. The creation of a neighborhood advisory committee for planning initiatives occurring in the City of Niagara Falls
2. The development of a blight abatement program
3. The strict enforcement of zoning and building codes

WHERE THE CHANGE WILL HAPPEN

Our neighborhood is located between Walnut Avenue, Niagara Street, Portage Road and 9th Street, adjacent to the Niagara Falls Tourist area in the City of Niagara Falls, NY. While the neighborhood retains the highest population of homeownership in the Core Neighborhood area, it suffers from blight, outdated zoning, and crime. The residents of the Memorial Park Neighborhood in the City of Niagara Falls see enormous potential in its historic community. The Memorial Park Neighborhood is uniquely situated to speak to Niagara Falls' historic significance as well as its future vitality. The enhancement and stability of our neighborhood directly supports the success of the neighboring tourist district. Our neighborhood has the potential and desire to become a beautiful urban backdrop that attracts new residents, supports businesses and attracts positive development.

I want to eliminate blight and restore beauty as well as pride to my historic neighborhood. A better working relationship between the residents and public officials in Niagara Falls would make that happen.

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