

Buena Vida Choice Neighborhood Plan
Working Group Meeting 2 – Safety and Circulation

June 19, 2017

Housing Authority of the City of Brownsville

Included below is a summary of potential strategies and initial project ideas described by participants at the second Working Group Meeting.

SAFETY

Strategy 1: Improve neighborhood lighting

1. Create a Light Up Buena Vida campaign, hold block events in Buena Vida, invite PD to discuss safety and importance of turning on porch lights – Home Depot could be a good resource
2. Look at Department of Energy, energy efficiency (LED) street lights, solar lighting program
3. Focus on alleys, take an inventory of what lighting works, where light poles are located, where we need additional lights, etc. and work in conjunction with public works to clean up and cut trees in the alleys
4. Coordinate more evening events to help people feel more comfortable after dark
5. Educate residents on how to report idle lighting
6. Report – give certain amount by time to follow up – 48 hours max
7. Trim trees that are obstructing lights from 16th street – alley ways (Van Buren)
8. Better light and tree maintenance – on behalf of PUB
9. More light posts at Edelstein Park
10. Report broken lights to PUB
11. Walk neighborhood and give out information
12. Keep yards clean and maintained
13. Add additional lighting around neighborhood

Strategy 2: Clean up graffiti within the community

1. Create a Buena Vida clean team, look at different sites quarterly and clean up and remove graffiti, meeting quarterly
2. Create a partnership base to assist with resources
3. Coordinate with BISD with regards to what groups are involved in local tagging
4. Partner with PUB in removing sneakers from power lines
5. Create a graffiti art / mural training program
6. Promote recreational/programs for youth to deter vandalism
7. Identify youth in the neighborhood that are known taggers and steer them towards art programs, for example Carlotta Petrina
8. Hold taggers accountable for their graffiti as well as their parents – possibly fine parents.
9. Have neighbors call cops when they see youth out doing graffiti

10. Work with schools for clean up - adopt spots in neighborhood

Strategy 3: Continue to strengthen community relationships with police

1. Create events where we invite PD to be with our kids
2. Advocate reinstatement of the police athletic leagues initiative
3. Creation of Big Brother/Big Sister program, survey offices to see if they are interested
4. Educate residents on the 546 Help Program
5. Continue inviting the police to neighborhood events – for example the Fun Run
6. Reinstate or create a neighborhood watch
7. Have police be an active member of the neighborhood watch
8. Educate the neighbors on the fact that the police are not the enemy – “meet my neighbor events”
9. Invite the police to the monthly resident meetings
10. Advocate for increased bike patrol
11. Bring police in during training to learn about neighborhood
12. Create a sub-station within the community

Strategy 4: Eliminate issues with stray or unsecured neighborhood dogs

1. Quarterly campaign to spay/neuter clinic; chip; vaccinations
2. Campaign on educating the public regarding ordinances; safety with relation to pets and animals
3. Continue to strategically target problematic areas where the six animal control personnel will be assigned
4. Advocate for more resources for the animal control division
5. Create a database and map to evaluate problem areas
6. Chip the dogs/owners need to be held accountable
7. At least \$1,000 fine for damage, or issue having to do with their pets
8. Mandatory vaccine clinics
9. No pets allowed in the units at the Buena Vida Development
10. Do not feed animals – put trash in place and clean up alleyways
11. Fix fences to block dogs from escaping

CIRCULATION

Strategy 1: Develop enhanced bicycle network with in the community

1. Organize a “walking group” with the adults/seniors of the neighborhood – reach farther distance, achieve group goals (time and distance)
2. Encouraging and promoting cyclobia to our residents
3. Develop a potential alley bike route plan
4. Promote the bike barn to help residents purchase a bike
5. Bike safety/bike helmet program/grant
6. Advocate for construction of bike trails in Buena Vida

Strategy 2: Improved coordination for circulation and infrastructure projects

1. Ask COB to discuss Buena Vida in their biweekly meetings
2. Project to eliminate vehicles that are for sale on the street
3. Implement parking policy for HACB Buena Vida Development
4. Code enforcement to remove junked vehicles, educate on how to report

Strategy 3: Improve and connect neighborhood sidewalks within Buena Vida

1. Repair existing sidewalks in Buena Vida development
2. Sidewalks are needed at/on Ringgold Street
3. Ramps for disabled persons around the neighborhood
4. Raise sidewalks on Tyler because of flooding
5. Create games on trails, sidewalks for example trails to the zoo or swimming pool to encourage people to walk the neighborhood
6. Add crossings for walkers, disabled, and bikers

Strategy 4: Provide better transit service for neighborhood residents

1. Have appropriate bus stops
2. Better frequency – half hour
3. Better maintenance of the buses
4. Better customer service – have management address this with their bus drivers
5. A “transit tracker” app or website
6. Shade/bus stops needs improvement