

## A New Day

Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter Date  
12/29/2007

### Special points of history:

- Jan 2006 Community meeting convened
- May 2006 City Council created Quality of Life Task Force
- Sept 2006 City Council voted to fund hiring of consultants
- Nov 2006 Consultants hired
- Feb 2007 Two Community Meetings
- Jun 2007 Two community meetings
- Nov 2007 City Council votes to accept final plan
- Dec 2007 Founding Meeting held
- Dec 2007 First Neighborhood Council Meeting held
- Dec 2007 First Board Meeting held

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## Unity CDC Kicks Off a New Day for District 4 & 5

The meeting was convened by Charles E. Jones. Approximately 100 persons were in attendance.



Mr. Jones presented a history of the City of Joliet Quality of Life Task Force and the completion of the Quality of Life Plan. Mr. Jones explained that the plan recommends the creation of a community development corporation to oversee implementation of the plan and Unity CDC is that community development corporation.

Mr. Jones introduced Cathe Evans Williams, attorney for Unity CDC.

Ms Evans Williams explained that Unity CDC is a not for profit IL corporation formed by the incorporators: Dave Evans, Bettye Gavin Charles E. Jones, and Kathy Kaiser. Unity CDC is in the process of applying for 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code tax exempt status.

Ms. Evans Williams invited all residents of Joliet City Council Dis-

trict 4 or 5 to sign up to become voting members of the corporation. 48 persons signed up during the meeting to become voting members of the corporation and 14 signed up as associate members.

Ms. Evans Williams also conducted a random selection of board terms for the initial board that resulted in the following assigned terms for the invited board: one year term; Teresa Davis, Rev. Hector Edwards, Greg Hill, Barbara Ladner, Gena Proulx, J.D. Ross, Matt Ryan, Russ Slinkard, Tom Sutter, Michael  
(Con't on Page 2)

## First Neighborhood Council Meeting Held

The Unity Neighborhood Council held its first meeting at Sacred Heart Church Monday, December 17, 2007.

Charles Jones welcomed the Council members and Dave Evans related the duties of the Council members. Bettye Gavin,

the Unity Board Liaison to the Council, also had opening remarks. The meeting was then turned over to the Council members.

The Council members will be responsible for establishing councils in

their neighborhoods, if one does not exist, and to report back to the Unity Board of Directors projects that can be accomplished to improve the images of the neighborhood. It was established that neighborhood  
(Con't on Page 3)

## Spirit of Cooperation



Councilman  
Warren Dorris

The Unity CDC is in service today because a spirit of cooperation existed from day one by a group of dedicated grass root leaders, City staff (especially Alfredo Melisio), consultants from Center for Neighborhood Technology, Joliet Councilpersons and numerous Joliet stakeholders. Past efforts by individual organizations to make a change in the District 4 and 5 communities always failed.

Leaders from JACOB, National Hookup of Black Women, Lewis University, PUSH and NAACP spent many hours working

together to make Unity happen. The future goal for Unity is that the spirit of cooperation continues so that the 81 recommendations developed in the Quality Of Life Plan will be completed. A huge portion of gratitude must be

given to Councilpersons (Con't on Page 4) Susie Barber and Warren Dorris for their support to this ef-



Councilwoman  
Susie Barber

## Unity CDC Kicks Off a New Day (Con't from Page 1)



Frank Quigley (Empress Casino) &  
President Charles Jones

Vinciguerra; two year term; Ray Bolden, Dave Evans, Br. James Gaffney, Charles Hanus, Kathy Kaiser, Bishop J.E. Moore, Henry Morris, Maria Pedraza; three year term; Susie Barber, Warren Dorris, Bettye Gavin, Charles E. Jones, Rev. Ray Lescher, Alma Martinez, Paul Pawlak, Steve Randich, Nate Romeo.

half of Paul Pawlak of Silver Cross Hospital, and Frank Quigley of Empress Casino.

Councilwoman Susie Barber and Councilman Warren Dorris committed \$150,000 to be provided from their NIP funds to operate the CDC. They indicated that this was a "once in a lifetime project and they were proud to participate". Dave Evans indicated that this opportunity has occurred because the incorporators had worked together to make it happen. He indicated that this spirit of cooperation had to be carried out for the remainder of the project for it to be successful. Greg Hill pledged a donation of \$5000. Tony

Ray indicated that Silver Cross was happy to participate. A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of a \$10,000 check from Frank Quigley of Empress Casino.

Next Bettye Gavin invited all of the residents in attendance to identify their neighborhood and attend break out sessions by neighborhood. Each neighborhood represented at the meeting elected a representative to the Neighborhood Council of Advisors.

Following the report from the neighborhoods, Mr. Jones thanked all for coming and adjourned the meeting.



Raymond Bolden  
Board Member



Greg Hill  
Board Member

Following Ms. Evans William's presentation, Kathy Kaiser and Charles E. Jones thanked all of the Unity CDC supporters and introduced some of those supporters who also made remarks: Councilwoman Susie Barber, Councilman Warren Dorris, Dave Evans, Greg Hill of Indicom Electric, Tony Ray, on be-

## Unity CDC Holds First Board Meeting



Michael Vinciguerra  
Board Member

Unity CDC held its first board meeting via telephone conference call Tuesday, December 18, 2007 at 2:00 PM. President Charles Jones opened the call with a welcome to all Board members present. Corporate Council Cathie Evans Williams then lead the conference call which was initiated to adopt the Bylaws and Conflict of In-

terest Policy. These documents were needed to file an expedited 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue application. A roll call was taken to verify that a quorum was present and a vote was taken on each item after a brief discussion. Both documents were adopted by a unanimous vote.



Bishop JE Moore  
Board Member

## First Neighborhood Council (Con't from Page 1)

organizations that already exist will act as the Neighborhood Council for their area. One of their first tasks is to identify the neighborhood council area and to establish a name. The Council members will attempt to organize meetings in their areas before the next Council meeting.

Methods to increase attendance at future meetings were discussed. The help to organize new councils was offered by members of some already established Neighborhood organizations ( St Patrick's and Cathedral Area Preservation Association ) .

The exchange of contact information was requested. The next meeting date was established for Monday January 7, 2008 at 5:30 PM at Sacred Heart Church.



## Neighborhood Advisor Council

Advisor	Caldwell	Dorothy	Sugar Creek
Advisor	Carruthers	Lee	Forest Park
Advisor	Crawford	Larry	Parkwood
Advisor	Davis	Teresa	St Mary
Advisor	Hargrow	Mattie	Nowell Park/Clearview
Advisor	Holmes	Joyce	East Side
Advisor	Horne	Wayne	Near Westside
Advisor	Johnson	Martha	New Lenox Road
Advisor	Lakota	Jerry	St Pats
Advisor	Magosky-White	Serena	St Pats
Advisor	McGaughy	Eurydice	East Side
Advisor	Paramo	Vicente	Mt Carmel
Advisor	Weatherspoon	Linda	Preston Heights
Advisor	Williams	Ruby	South Side
Advisor	Willis	Mac	South Side
Board Liaison	Gavin	Bettye	Parkwood



Bettye Gavin  
Board Member &  
Board  
Neighborhood Advisor  
Liaison

## City of Joliet Support



Art Schultz  
Mayor



Teresa Davis  
Board Member



Brother James  
Gaffney  
Board Member



Steve Randich  
Board Member



Alfred Melesio  
City of Joliet

The City of Joliet acknowledged having a major role in leading revitalization. The City proposed focusing on “catalyst projects” to jumpstart implementation. The Joliet City Council has approved an implementation strategy that includes the expenditure of \$600,000 over the next 3

years to satisfy 31 of the 61 identified proposals designated by the Quality of Life Plan as City of Joliet direct responsibilities.

The Joliet City Council has also approved an additional expenditure of up to \$50,000 per year to fund the Unity Community Development Corporation

ment Corporation



Jan Hallums  
Quillman  
Councilwoman

## Quality of Life Task Force Background

The City of Joliet Quality of Life Task Force was formed by community leaders including Councilman Warren Dorris, Councilman Alex Ledesma, Councilwoman At Large Jan Hallums Quillman, Dave Evans, Rainbow-PUSH, Bettye Gavin, National Hook-up of Black Women, Charles Jones, Lewis University, Kathy Kaiser, JACOB, Alicia Morales, University of St. Francis, and Betty Washington, NAACP, in order to form a plan of action for economic development and quality of life improvement in the 4th and 5th Council Districts of Joliet.

The project began in No-

vember of 2006, when the Mayor and City Council of Joliet selected a regional consulting team. The regional consulting team included the Center for Neighborhood Technology of Chicago, IL, the Metropolitan Planning Council of Chicago, IL, Teska Associates, Inc of Evanston, IL, and Partec Consulting Group of Richton Park, IL.

The consulting team conducted research, and interviewed nearly one hundred stakeholders including local officials, pastors, and community and business leaders.

They also held a series of

Community Meetings, attended by over 800 residents, and gathered and reviewed information to identify needs, deficiencies, areas of low participation and other issues from the community’s perspective.

This work resulted in the Quality of Life Plan for Council Districts 4 & 5 which was approved by the Joliet City Council on November 19, 2007 by a unanimous vote. One of the recommendations of the Plan was to create a CDC. Hence the formation of the Unity CDC.

## Spirit of Cooperation (Con’t from Page 2)

fort. District 4 also must give former Councilman Alex Ledesma credit for his initial support.

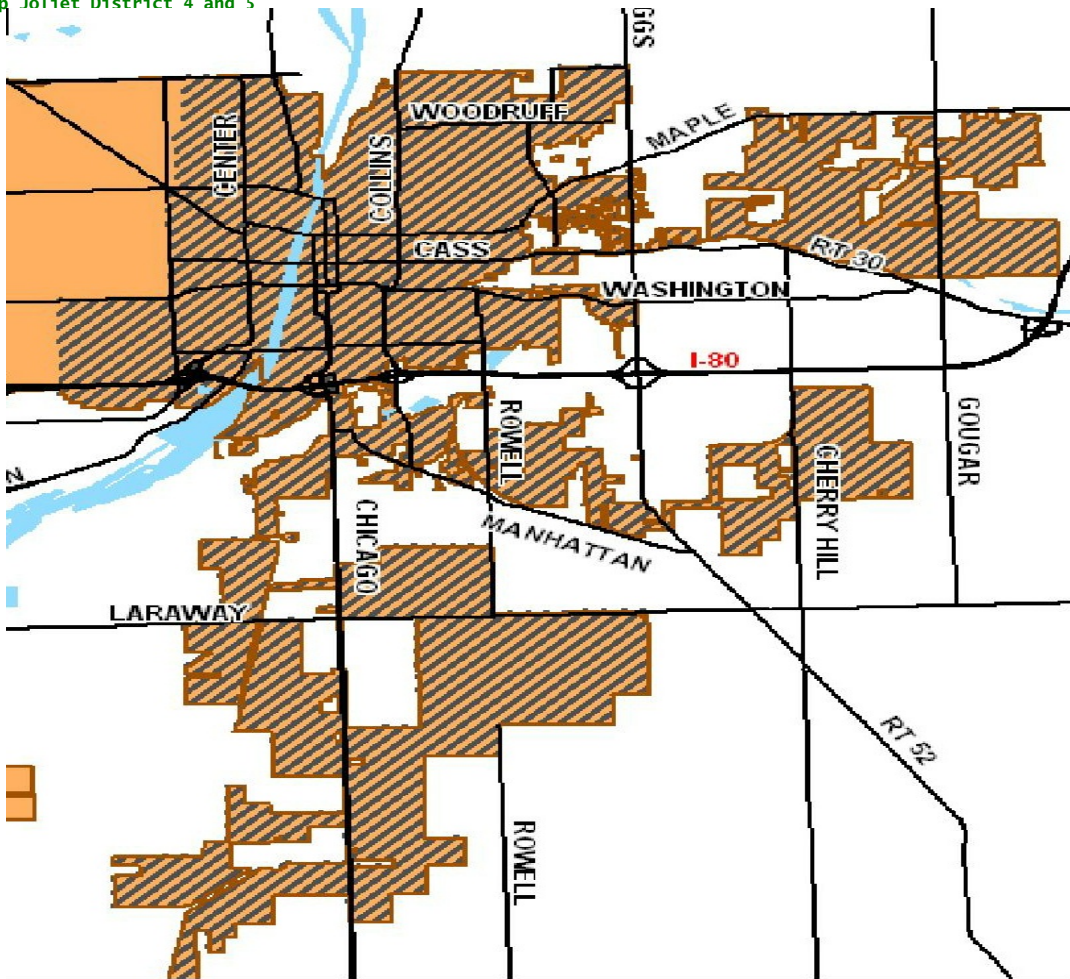
The incorporators of Unity Community Development

Cooperation, NFP were Bettye Gavin, National Hookup of Black Women, Kathy Kaiser, JACOB, Dave Evans, PUSH and Charles Jones, Lewis University.



Pete Saunders  
Ex-Officio Board

Map Joliet District 4 and 5



Paul Pawlak  
Board Member



Nate Romeo  
Board Member



Russ Slinkard  
Board Member



Henry Morris  
Board Member

## Unity CDC Calendar

### 2008 Board Meetings

Renaissance Downtown Joliet

11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Monday, January 14

Monday, March 10

Monday, June 9

Monday, September 8

Monday, December 8



Eugenia Proulx  
Board Member

### Neighborhood Council

Sacred Heart Church

5:00 PM to 6:15 PM

Monday, January 7

## Quality of Life Plan Short Term Recommendations



**Matt Ryan**  
Board Member



**JD Ross**  
Board Member



Accountants  
**Mitchelena Meade**  
Meade Accounting  
& Investment  
Planning  
Accountant



Corporate Council  
**Cathe R. Evans Williams**  
Woods & Evans, L.L.C.

**Coming  
Soon!!  
Unity  
CDC  
Office**

<u>Indicator</u>	<u>Proposed Action</u>
<u>Education</u>	1) Establish mechanism to monitor the impact of all academic enrichment efforts.
	2) Increase education throughout the community on the affects of high mobility and chronic truancy rates.
	3) Broaden efforts to increase the level of parental/care given engagement with area schools.
	6) Convene regular community dialogues to discuss accomplishments and areas of improvement relative to all aspects of the community including education.
<u>Housing</u>	1) Leverage strong market area activity to create mixed-income housing throughout the city
	2) Establish Planning Area community-based organization (possibly a community development corporation (CDC) tasked with administering housing programming, development and rehabilitation.
	3) Expand or reinstate housing rehabilitation programs and concentrate these programs in "Target Redevelopment Areas"
	4) Expand residential development in Downtown Joliet by working to attract interested developers and allowing for increased density in appropriate locations, particularly around the Metra station
<u>Human Capital</u>	1) Continue to support the various collaborations and consortiums of service providers working in the Planning Area of Joliet and encourage new opportunities to connect with residents.
	2) Establish a resident leadership initiative to increase the number of residents actively engaged and accountable in the revitalization of the community.
	3) Increase capacity building assistance to local nonprofits including community and faith-based organizations.
	4) Increase efforts to expand youth leadership programs specifically targeting youth residing in the Planning Area of Joliet.
	5) Support local youth serving organizations and collaboratives, including a survey to determine program needs from a youth perspective and capacity level needs.
	6) Explore the feasibility of modifying existing programs or establishing a new program to develop the technical and life skills of out-of-school young adults interested in securing living wage employment.
<u>Industrial Development &amp; Employment</u>	2) Increase the number of Planning Area residents who obtain good jobs through existing training & employment programs by implementing recommendations of a new Community Employment Task Force. Recommend and implement programs to: Increase outreach of work
<u>Land Use</u>	3) Prepare a specific redevelopment plan, design guidelines, and developer recruitment process for the USX and prison sites
	4) Prepare specific corridor plans for Cass St, Collins St, Chicago St, Briggs St, Jackson St, and Jefferson St
<u>Neighborhood Character</u>	3) Adopt design guidelines that foster more pedestrian-friendly business areas
<u>Recreation</u>	1) Develop a Planning Area Parks Master Plan, and tie recommended improvements to multi-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) .
	2) Prepare a study to explore the feasibility of providing an additional recreation center with a full range of facilities, including pool, and other alternative uses to serve residents.
	6) Explore partnerships with other providers of recreational services, including schools to enhance coordination and availability. a) Develop school/park joint use facilities
	7) Explore alternative funding, including governmental, not-for-profit and corporate sponsors
<u>Retail Development</u>	1) Determine specific geographies for development and create funding/organizational structure (TIF, SSA, BID, etc.)
	2) Establish Planning Area community-based organization (possibly a community development corporation (CDC) with a mandate including economic development and commercial revitalization in the Planning Area
	3) Extend incentive programs to Planning Area development areas
	4) Market sites to prospective developers, with an eye toward grocery store development in particular.
	5) Zone for mixed-use development around commercial corridors and neighborhood hubs
	6) Develop land assembly plan and assemble parcels with mixed-use potential
<u>Transportation</u>	1) Support Pace bus service proposals at fully funded levels
	2) Introduce Planning Area Circulator Service
	3) Multiply & coordinate van pools
	5) Establish "Safe Routes to School Program"

## Unity CDC Board of Directors

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Term Ends</i>
Susie Barber	District 4 Councilperson	Councilwoman	12/31/2010
Raymond Bolden	Retired Will County Judge	Honorable	12/31/2009
Teresa Davis	Evergreen Terrace Residents Association	Chair	12/31/2008
Warren Dorris	District 5 Councilperson	Councilman	12/31/2010
Rev Hector Edwards	Mt. Olive Church	Rev	12/31/2008
Dave Evans	PUSH Joliet Affiliate	Chairman	12/31/2009
Br. James Gaffney	Lewis University	President	12/31/2009
Bettye Gavin	National Hook-Up of Black Women	President	12/31/2010
Charles Hanus	Will & Grundy Central Trades, AFL-CIO	President	12/31/2009
Greg Hill	Indicom Electric Company	President	12/31/2008
Charles Jones	Lewis University	Associate V P for Mission and Community Partnership	12/31/2010
Kathy Kaiser	JACOB	Member	12/31/2009
Barbara Ladner	Pace	Manager, Business Development	12/31/2008
Fr. Ray Lescher	Sacred Heart Church	Father	12/31/2010
Alma Martinez	Latino Business Association	President	12/31/2010
Bishop JE Moore	Christ Temple Church of God in Christ	Bishop	12/31/2009
Henry Morris	Housing Authority of Joliet	Executive Director	12/31/2009
Open			12/31/2008
Open			12/31/2008
Paul Pawlak	Silver Cross Hospital	President and CEO	12/31/2010
Maria Pedraza	Mt. Carmel Church	Member	12/31/2009
Dr. Gena Proulx	Joliet Junior College	President	12/31/2008
Steve Randich	Harris Bank	President	12/31/2010
Nate Romeo	NAACP	President	12/31/2010
J.D. Ross	Will-Grundy Medical Clinic	Executive Director	12/31/2008
Matt Ryan	Will County Executive Office	Chief of Staff	12/31/2008
Russ Slinkard	Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry	President & CEO	12/31/2008
Tom Sutter	YMCA	Senior Vice President/COO	12/31/2008
Michael Vinciguerra	University of St. Francis	President	12/31/2008
Pete Saunders	xxx-Ex officio(Non Voting) City of Joliet	City Planner	12/31/2017



Charles Jones  
President



Dave Evans  
First Vice President



Alma Martinez  
Second Vice President



Tom Sutter  
Treasurer



Rev Hector Edwards  
Board Member



Father Ray Lescher  
Board Member



Barbara Ladner  
Board Member



Charles Hanus  
Board Member



Maria Pedraza  
Board Member



Kathy Kaiser  
Secretary

**Unity Community  
Development Council, NFP**

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Joliet IL 60434  
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Alt. Phone: 815-741-0628  
Fax: 815-836-5931  
E-mail: [unitycdc@acninc.net](mailto:unitycdc@acninc.net)

Place Label here

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.unitycdc.org](http://www.unitycdc.org)

*Energy comes from Unity*

Tear off and send back to UNITY, PO Box 1213, Joliet IL 60434

*Join us to help  
shape a New Day!!!*



**UNITY**  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION

- If you live in Joliet District 4 or 5, you can become a voting member.

**MEMBERSHIP CARD**

**PLEASE PRINT**

- If you live outside Joliet District 4 or 5, you can become an associate member.

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_