



IMAGINE FLINT

Vision and Goals Workshop

March 9, 2013

S.T.O.P.P. Community Band

Start Thinking About The
Positive Possibilities



Mayor Dayne Walling

City of Flint



City Council

Ward 1	Claudia Croom
Ward 2	Jacqueline F. Poplar
Ward 3	Bryant W. Nolden, Vice President
Ward 4	Joshua M. Freeman
Ward 5	Bernard Lawler
Ward 6	Sheldon Neely
Ward 7	Dale K. Weighill
Ward 8	Michael J. Sarginson
Ward 9	Scott Kincaid, President



**Robert Wesley, Chair
Planning Commission
City of Flint**



Planning Commission

Ward 1	David Jackson, SR.
Ward 2	Patrick Ryals
Ward 3	Leora Campbell
Ward 4	Carol-Anne Blower
Ward 5	Robert Wesley, Chairman
Ward 6	Robert Jewell
Ward 7	Denise Smith Allen
Ward 8	Phyllis McCree
Ward 9	Elizabeth Jordan



Steering Committee Members

Linda Boose, City Wide Advisory Committee-
Human Relations

Barry Williams, Retired Police Officer and City
Concilman

Everett Cole, Baker College

Phil Hagerman, Diplomat Pharmacy

Pamela Hawkins, Flint Area Congregations
Together (FACT)

John Henry, Flint Institute of Arts

Pastor LaTrelle Holmes, Greater Galille Baptist
Church

Judy Hovey, Fairfield Neighborhood Association

Elizabeth Jordan, City of Flint Planning
Commission

Charles Tutt, Retired Educator

Karen Lopez, Hurley Hospital

Sup't. Quintin Marshall, Genesee County Church
Of God In Christ Alliance (COGIC)

Bryant Nolden, Flint City Council

Clarence Pierce, Hamilton Community Health

Franklin Pleasant, Citizen

Jackie Poplar, Flint City Council

Jim Richardson (Co-Chair), Non-Profit
Organization

Raynetta Speed, Genesee County Land Bank

Linda Thompson, Flint Community Schools

Bob Wesley (Co-Chair), City of Flint
Planning Commission

Chia Morgan, Mayors Youth Council



Advisory Groups

- Housing (affordable housing, neighborhood blight, residential demolition, housing rehabilitation, multi-family housing, reuse of vacant buildings for housing)
- Economic Development & Education (job training, expansion of small businesses, literacy, pre-k education, community schools, commercial demolition, industrial park development)
- Transportation & Mobility (complete streets, bicycle paths, bus transportation)
- Natural Resources, Open Space and Conservation (urban gardening, urban agriculture, Flint River, community parks, vacant land, environmental conservation)
- Public Infrastructure and Community Facilities (utilities, storm/waster water, recreational facilities, library, fire/police stations, public art, citywide wireless communications)
- Public Safety, Heath & Welfare (police/ fire services, health and social services)

John Houseal

Houseal Lavigne Associates





IMAGINE FLINT

What is a Master Plan?



Phase I: Plan Making



Phase II: Implementation

Planning Process



Community Engagement

- Community Workshops: 4 workshops, 180 participants
- Key Person Interviews: 21 individuals representing 14 organizations
- Do-It-Yourself Community Workshop Kits: 39 DIY kits distributed, 641 worksheets received
- On-line Questionnaires: 117 submittals from residents, students & businesses
- Mind Mixer Online Forum: 63 participants
- 100 informational meetings to date with over 2,500 attendees



Challenges

- Flint has lost 95,000 people since the 1960 Master Plan
 - » Decrease of 48%
- GM employment dropped by 90% from 80,000 at its height
- 1 in 5 homes are vacant (11,000 in total)
- Rate of violent crime is 6 times the national average
- Adult illiteracy rate of 36%
- Flint is **34 square miles**



Three Big Questions

1. How can we reshape the Flint economy?
2. How do we provide a better quality of life to our citizens with the reality of declining revenue?
3. How can we re-imagine our neighborhoods to better serve our smaller city population?



Big Questions, Big Implications

- Master Plan will cover a wide variety of issues, from housing and jobs to transportation and education.
- Today's topic questions touch upon a wide range of interconnected issues
- Answers to these questions will guide all components of the Master Plan
 - » Flint's economic health
 - » Quality of life



We have a lot of work to do...



David Campt, Ph.D.

Lead Facilitator

AMERICA***SPEAKS***



Workshop Objectives

- City-wide discussion about the future Flint
- Prioritize strategies for three critical issues
- Create a frame that will shape the Master Plan Vision and Goals



Agenda

Welcome

Table Introduction

Who's in the room? Keypad Polling

- 1) How can we reshape the Flint economy?
- 2) How do we provide a better quality of life to our citizens with the reality of declining revenue?
- 3) How can we re-imagine our neighborhoods to better serve our smaller city population?

Closing



How Today Will Work

- Table Discussions
- Table Facilitators
- Discussion Guide
- Worksheet
- iPad Computers
- Theme Team
- Keypad Polling



Ground Rules

- Speak openly and honestly
- Listen carefully and respectfully to each person
- Keep comments brief and stay focused on task
- Explore differences respectfully and look for common ground
- Turn off cell phones
- No scheduled breaks



Table Introductions



Social Equity

All people regardless of race, ethnicity, income, age and ability have fair and equal access for opportunities for success, including:

- Jobs and small business opportunities
- Quality education: pre-K to college, and new economy job skills
- Affordable transportation, affordable homes, parks, and fresh food
- Full participation in the political and cultural life of the community

Table Task

1. What is your name?
2. Where do you live?
3. As our city moves forward, what must we do to improve social equity?



Who's in the Room?



Keypad Polling

**Press the
button of
your choice...**

**...when you
get the green
light, your
vote has been
received.**



**If you make a
mistake...**

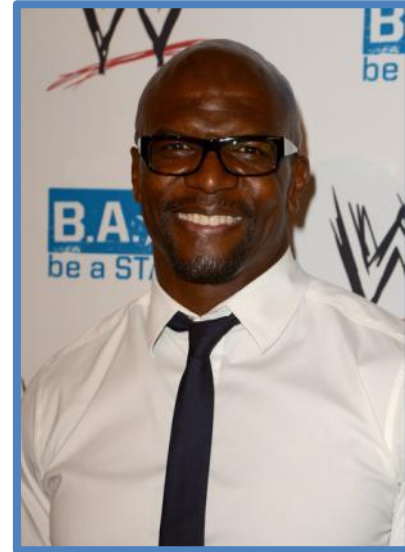
Just Vote Again

**...only your last
response is
recorded!**



Which of these Flint celebrities makes you feel most proud?

1. Terry Crews
2. Grand Funk Railroad
3. Dee Dee Bridgewater
4. Bob Eubanks
5. Claressa Shields



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4. Bob Eubanks
5. **Claressa Shields**



Which of these Flint celebrities makes you feel most proud?

9% 1. Terry Crews

12% 2. Grand Funk Railroad

9% 3. Dee Dee Bridgewater

3% 4. Bob Eubanks

66% 5. Claressa Shields



What is your gender?

Census

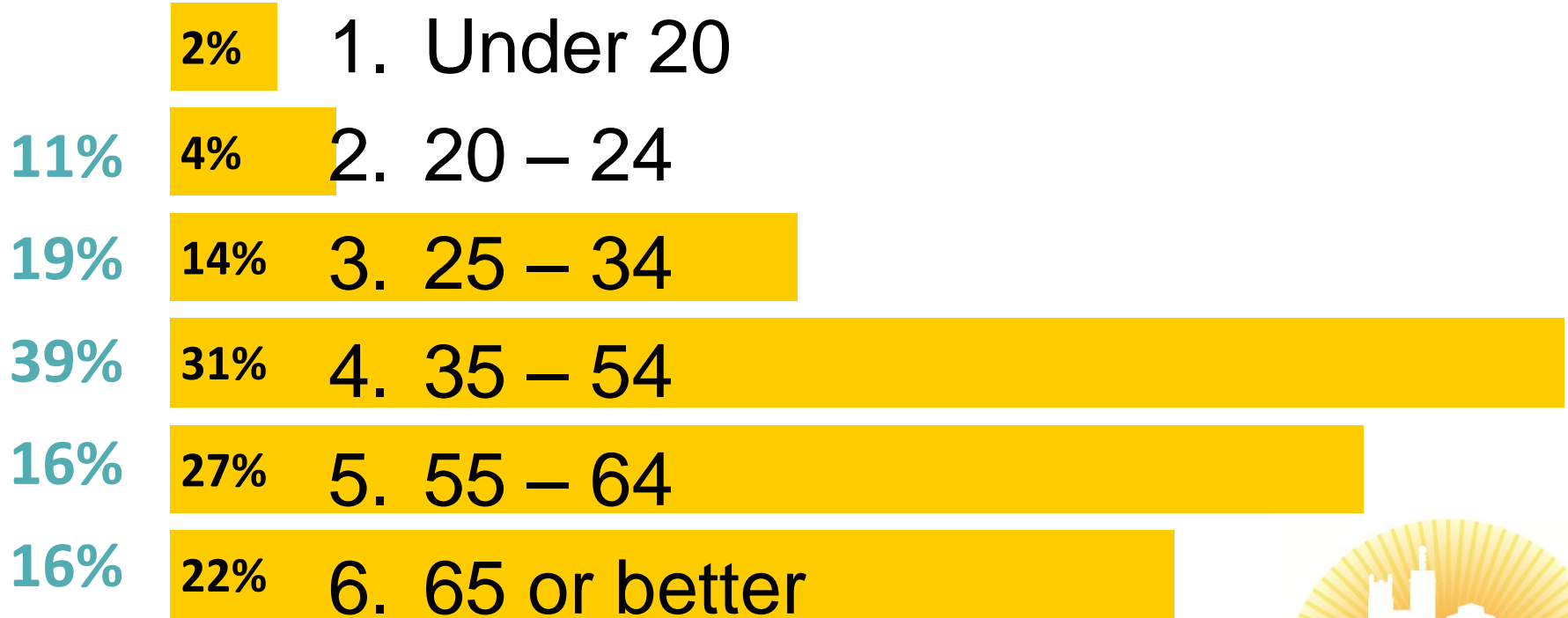
52% 48% 1. Female

48% 52% 2. Male



How old are you?

Census



What is your race/ethnicity?

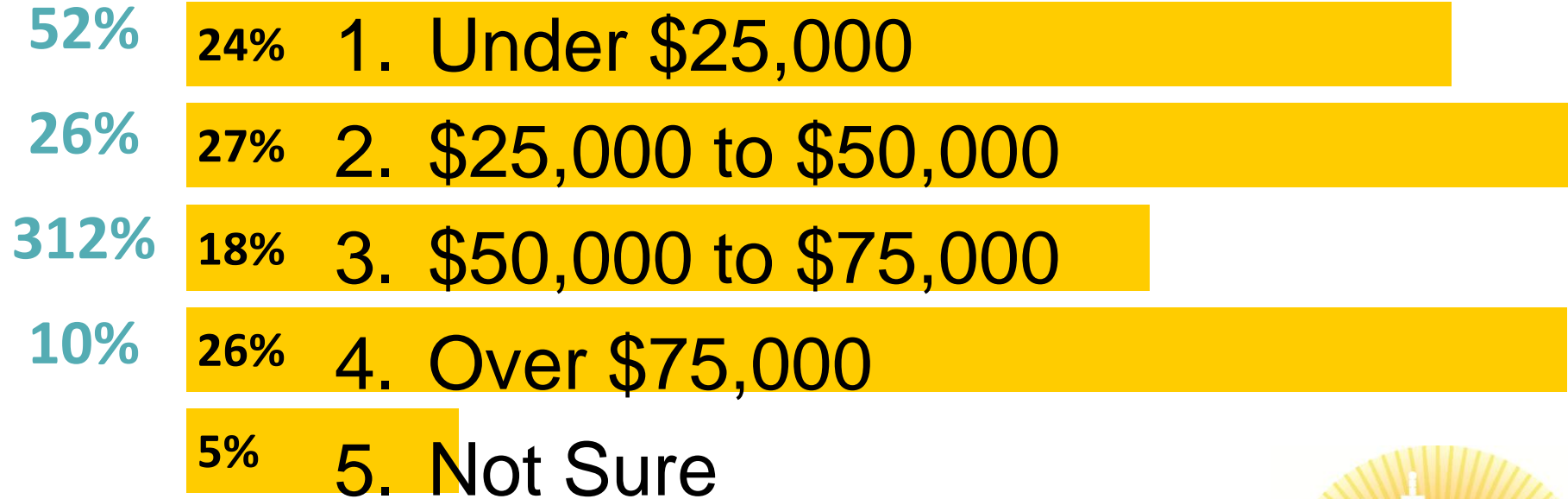
Census

0.4%	1%	1. Asian American
56%	43%	2. Black or African American
3.9%	3%	3. Latino
0.4%	0%	4. Native American or Indian
38%	46%	5. White or Caucasian
3.3%	6%	6. More than one race
0.1%	1%	7. Other



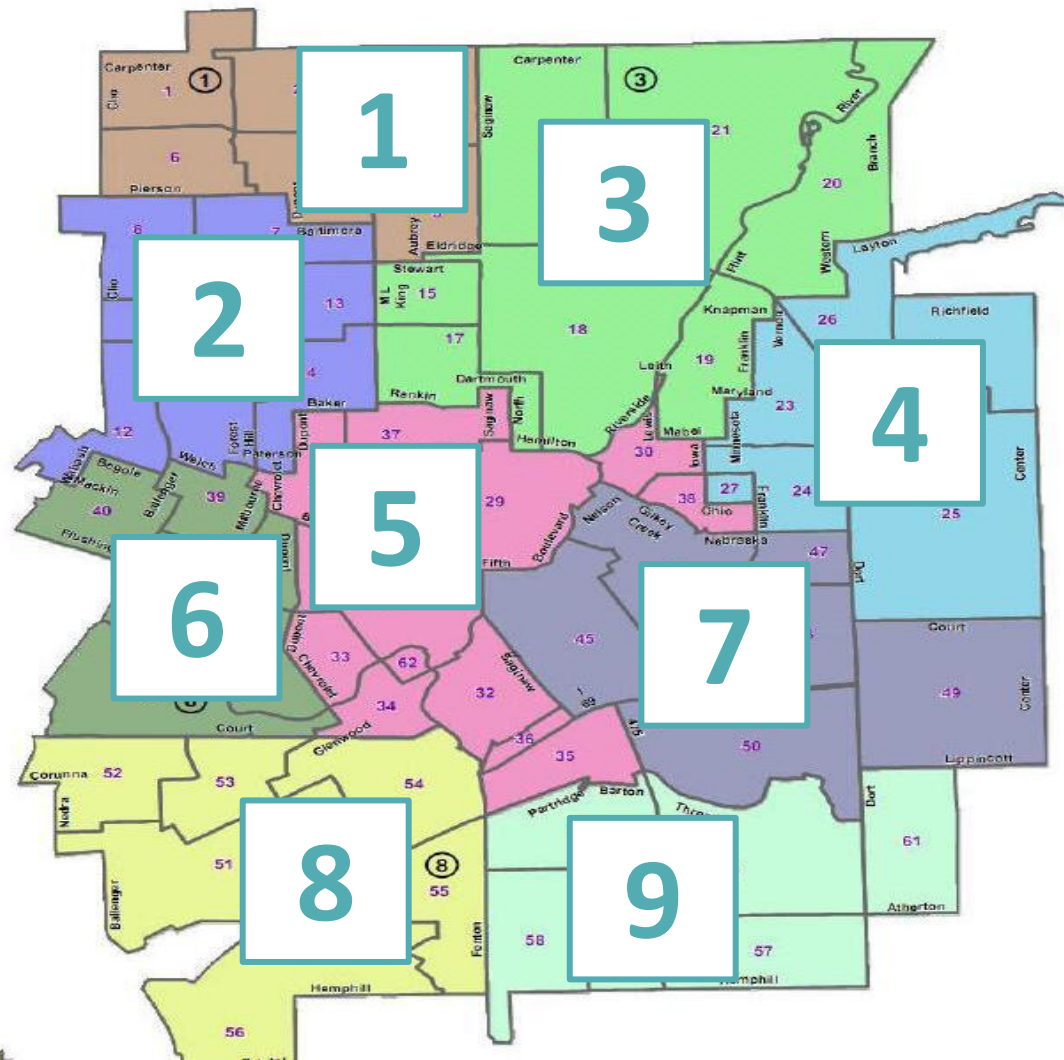
What is your household income?

Census

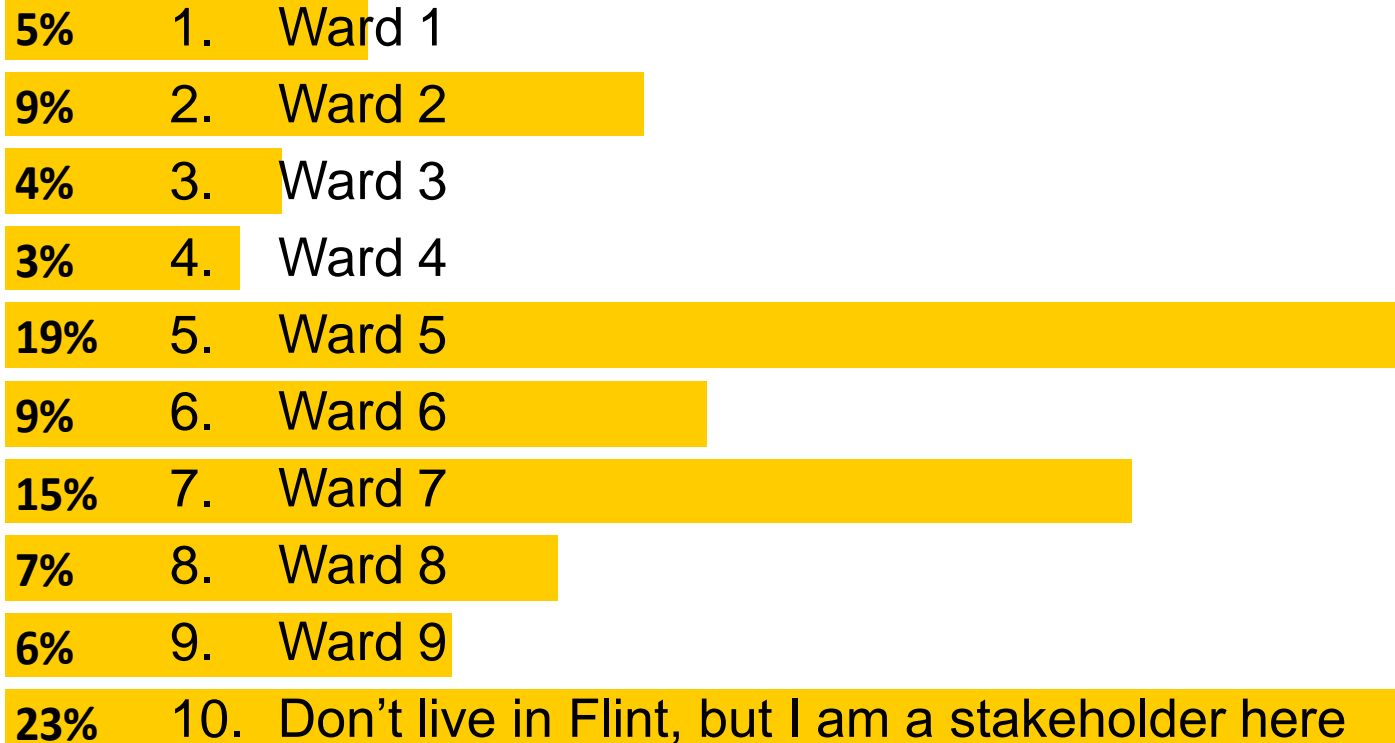


What ward do you live in?

10. Don't live in Flint, but I am a stakeholder here



Where do you live?

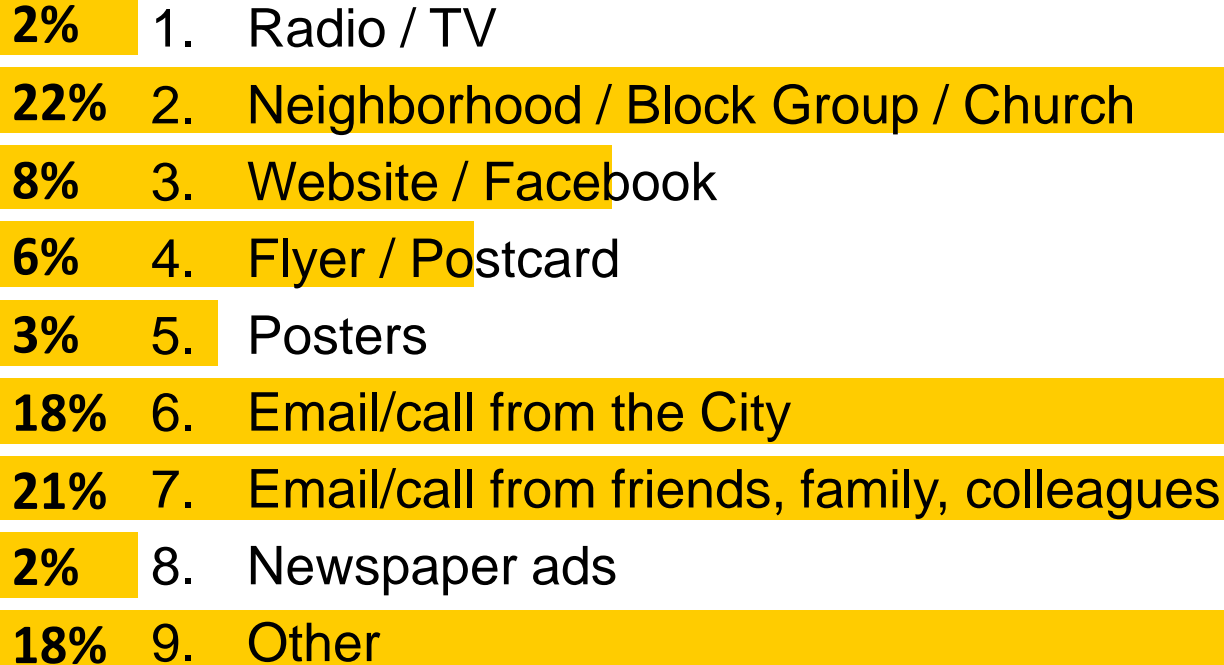


How are you connected to Flint? (Select all that apply)

- 57% 1. Live here now
- 35% 2. Lived here all my life
- 15% 3. Used to live here
- 43% 4. Work here
- 16% 5. Student here
- 14% 6. Own a business
- 37% 7. Represent an institution or organization
- 10% 8. Other



How did you first hear about today's workshop?



Theme Team Report: Improving Social Equity



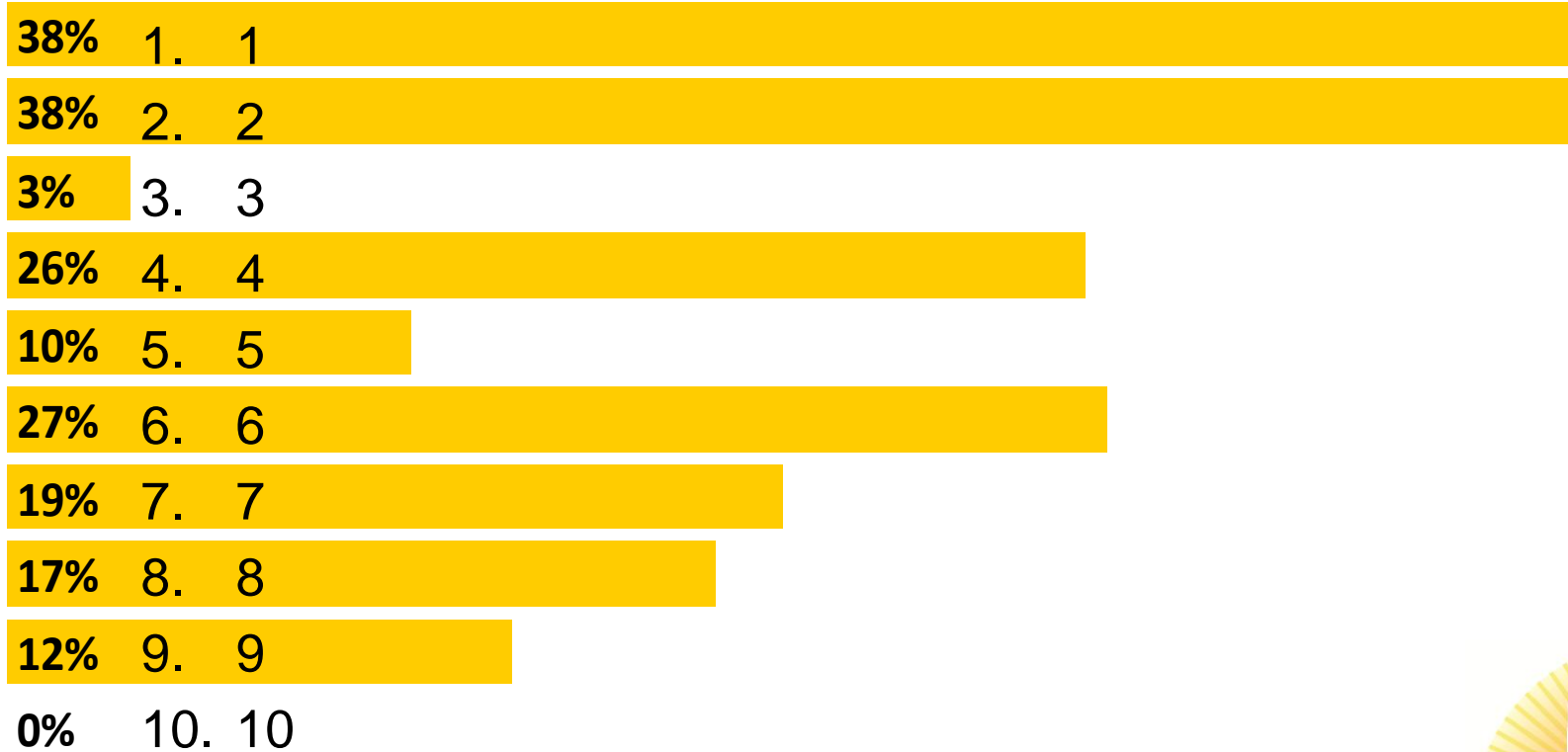
Table Introductions – Improve Social Equity

- Expand quality education opportunities for all ages
- Everybody needs to feel safe everywhere
- Accessible and affordable public transportation
- Designing a diverse economy using local job base
- Ensure equal investment and access to resources for all - beyond downtown
- Make youth a priority through increased access and quality of programs
- Transform blight into beautification – enhance city image
- Everyone needs access to fresh, healthy foods and safe, walkable communities
- Government transparency – Public participation in city and neighborhood decisions

Improve Social Equity – Select 2

1. Expand quality education opportunities for all ages (38%)
2. Everybody needs to feel safe everywhere (38%)
3. Accessible and affordable public transportation (3%)
4. Designing a diverse economy using local job base (26%)
5. Ensure equal investment and access to resources for all (10%)
6. Make youth a priority through increased access and quality of programs (27%)
7. Transform blight into beautification – enhance city image (19%)
8. Everyone needs access to fresh, healthy foods and safe, walkable communities (17%)
9. Government transparency – Public participation in city and neighborhood decisions (12%)

Imrpove Social Equity



How can we reshape the Flint economy?



How can we reshape the Flint economy?

- Diversity is needed
- Eds and Meds
- Job skills mismatch
- Brain drain
- Quality of life
- Success breeds success



How can we reshape the Flint economy?

Six Potential Strategies

1. Take advantage of infrastructure, transportation and brownfields
2. Prepare the workforce for today's jobs
3. Expand number of local businesses
4. Expand Flint's education and health institutions
5. Leverage downtown into a larger employment hub
6. Market and change Flint's image

Table Task: How can we reshape the Flint economy?

1. Which strategies stand out to you as having the greatest potential and why?
2. What concerns do you have about this list of strategies?
3. Are there any additional strategies you would like to suggest?



Theme Team Report

How can we reshape the Flint economy?



Reshape Economy– Greatest Potential

- Rebrand Flint's image – Removing blight and leveraging cultural assets and artists
- Expand neighborhood businesses to be more appealing to residents and visitors
- Better education to combat illiteracy and reduce crime
- Youth education at a young age to better prepare future workforce
- Retool skills of former auto workers for today's jobs
- Create partnerships between institutions and employers
- Support entrepreneurship – reduce red tape, create incentives, tap into local talent
- Transform brownfields to green space or green business/technology

Reshape Economy – Concerns

- Flint neighborhoods won't benefit from new projects/investment
- No mention of higher education and impact on training/job growth
- Need for youth focused strategies
- Inclusion of arts and culture in community development
- Public safety is required for economic development
- Infrastructure needs updating/improvement
- Lack of finances available – Access to capital for small businesses & home owners

Which strategies have the best potential to reshape the economy? (Select 2)

1. Take advantage of infrastructure, transportation, and

25% brownfields

49% 2. Prepare the workforce for today's jobs

27% 3. Expand number of local businesses

32% 4. Expand Flint's education and health institutions

14% 5. Leverage downtown into a larger employment hub

36% 6. Market and change Flint's image



Reshape Economy – Additional Strategies

- Focus on quality of life to attract businesses – including free wi-fi
- Replicate downtown development model into other areas of the city
- Review and update zoning code and charter
- Workforce development begins with adult literacy and parenting
- Increase public transportation system to provide access across the city
- Create greater access to small business loans and encourage residents to buy local in order to keep money circulating here
- Develop crime prevention strategies and ex-offender programs
- Create programs that encourage youth to take pride in their neighborhoods, prepare them for future jobs, and engage in city decisions

Additional Strategies – Select 2

1. Focus on quality of life to attract businesses – including free wi-fi (16%)
2. Replicate downtown development model into other areas of the city (22%)
3. Review and update zoning code and charter (8%)
4. Workforce development begins with adult literacy and parenting (32%)
5. Increase public transportation system to provide access across the city (8%)
6. Create greater access to small business loans and encourage residents to buy local in order to keep money circulating here (28%)
7. Develop crime prevention strategies and ex-offender programs (27%)
8. Create programs that encourage youth to take pride in their neighborhoods, prepare them for future jobs, and engage in city decisions (45%)

Additional Strategies - Economy



Topic 2: How do we provide a better quality of life to our citizens with the reality of declining revenue?



How do we provide a better quality of life to our citizens with the reality of declining revenue?

- Smaller population, Less revenue
- Loss of Neighborhood Anchors
- Community-led Efforts are Key
- Quality Services, Quality Neighborhood



How do we provide a better quality of life to our citizens with the reality of declining revenue?

Six Potential Strategies

1. Empower local groups to provide services
2. Consolidate Flint school facilities
3. Repurpose vacant facilities for community-based activities
4. Re-establish neighborhood policing, ex-offender integration
5. Develop neighborhood serving business
6. Create specific neighborhood plans



Table Task: How do we provide a better quality of life?

1. Which strategies stand out to you as having the greatest potential and why?
2. What concerns do you have about this list of strategies?
3. Are there any additional strategies you would like to suggest?



Theme Team Report

How do we provide a better quality of life to our citizens with the reality of declining revenue?



Better Quality of Life – Greatest Potential

- City can accomplish more when everyone is empowered – neighborhoods / businesses
- Fewer schools allows for more efficient use of resources
- Re-purpose schools, create community centers as tools to fight crime
- Community policing worked well in past
- “Healthy people are wealthy people”
- Helping ex-offender find jobs can prevent them committing more crimes
- Focus on healthy food, not liquor stores

Better Quality of Life – Concerns

- Current police structure/capacity doesn't allow for community policing
- Don't need big big/general retail stores or liquor stores, need quality local businesses
- Need to stabilize home values and address vacant buildings
- Need adequate capacity and coordination for faith/community groups to take on additional services
- Are strategies viable given funding needs?
- Need clear plan for re-use of closed school facilities
- Residents feel disempowered in city decision-making and how resources are used

Which strategies have the best potential to provide a better quality of life with the reality of declining revenue? (Select 2)

13% 1. Empower local groups to provide services

8% 2. Consolidate Flint school facilities

15% 3. Repurpose vacant facilities for community-based activities

16% 4. Re-establish neighborhood policing, ex-offender integration

22% 5. Develop neighborhood serving business

25% 6. Create specific neighborhood plans



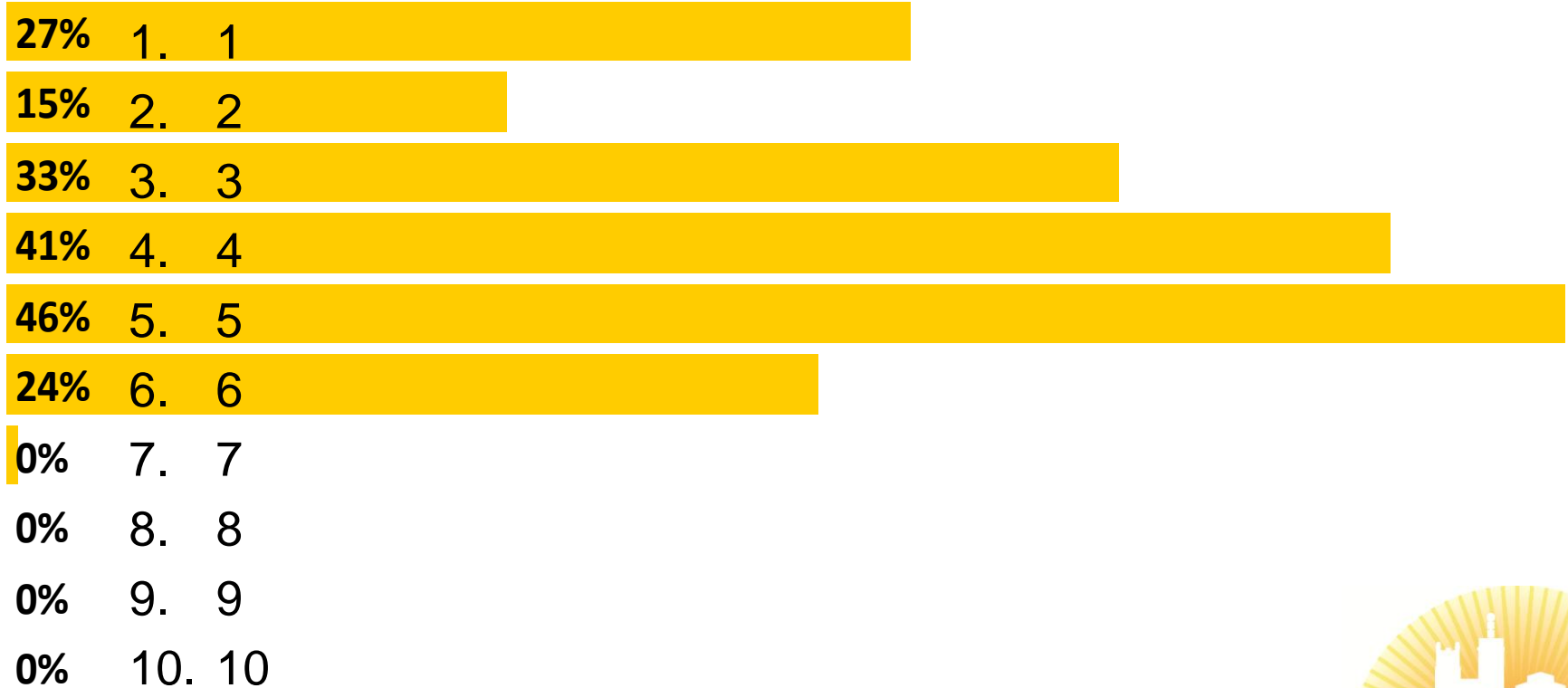
Better Quality of Life – Additional Strategies

- Repurpose vacant buildings – burn for firefighter training; provide as homes and require rehab.; create low maintenance open spaces and gardens
- Increase code enforcement
- Create more opportunities for recreation and youth programming
- Build neighborhood togetherness to encourage community problem solving
- Develop public and private sector partnerships to invest in youth and local-based growth
- Utilize new and effective technologies for security cameras and crime patrols

Additional Strategies – Select 2

1. Repurpose vacant buildings (27%)
2. Increase code enforcement (15%)
3. Create more opportunities for recreation and youth programming (33%)
4. Build neighborhood togetherness to encourage community problem solving (41%)
5. Develop public and private sector partnerships to invest in youth and local-based growth (46%)
6. Utilize new and effective technologies for security cameras and crime patrols (24%)

Additional Strategies – Quality of Life



Topic 3: How can we re-imagine our neighborhoods to better serve our smaller city population?



How can we re-imagine our neighborhoods to better serve our smaller city population?

- Less jobs, less homes, less businesses
- City-wide impacts
- Landscape needs to evolve
- Cultural assets can be anchors for change
- Investment has been uneven



How can we re-imagine our neighborhoods to better serve our smaller city population?

Seven Potential Strategies

1. Target key community assets for higher density
2. Encourage mixed-use
3. Establish 'green' areas
4. Use mobility to guide a development pattern
5. Concentrate demolition in high crime areas
6. Assemble vacant properties for low density development
7. Redesign City systems to work with nature



Table Task: How can we re-imagine our neighborhoods to better serve our smaller city population?

1. Which strategies stand out to you as having the greatest potential and why?
2. What concerns do you have about this list of strategies?
3. Are there any additional strategies you would like to suggest?



Theme Team Report

How can we re-imagine our neighborhoods to better serve our smaller city population?



Re-Imagine our Neighborhoods – Greatest Potential

- Mixed use promotes walkability and enhances access to businesses and community assets
- Concentrating development can strengthen/solidify institutions – e.g. Cleveland Clinic
- Removing blight reduces crime, increases property values
- Re-purposing vacant properties
 - » Create sense of ownership
 - » Allow for larger lots
 - » Re-use lots for community benefit (e.g. urban gardens)
- Green infrastructure can cut long term costs
- Improving neighborhood appearance encourages activity and improves safety
- Consider downsizing infrastructure where it makes sense

Re-Imagine our Neighborhoods – Concerns

- Connect demolitions to need for broader housing strategy and homelessness
- Need a plan for land use when homes are demolished
- Need for public safety and good sidewalks for walkability
- Positive and negative feedback about “suburban” style lots in the city
- How do we target areas for demolition in a fair manner? Need equitable decision-making
- Feeling that the decision to “let go of the North Side” has already been made

Which strategies have the best potential to help re-imagine our neighborhoods? (Select 2)

25% 1. Target key community assets for higher density

39% 2. Encourage mixed-use

18% 3. Establish 'green' areas

18% 4. Use mobility to guide a development pattern

42% 5. Concentrate demolition in high crime areas

20% 6. Assemble vacant properties for low density development

26% 7. Redesign City systems to work with nature



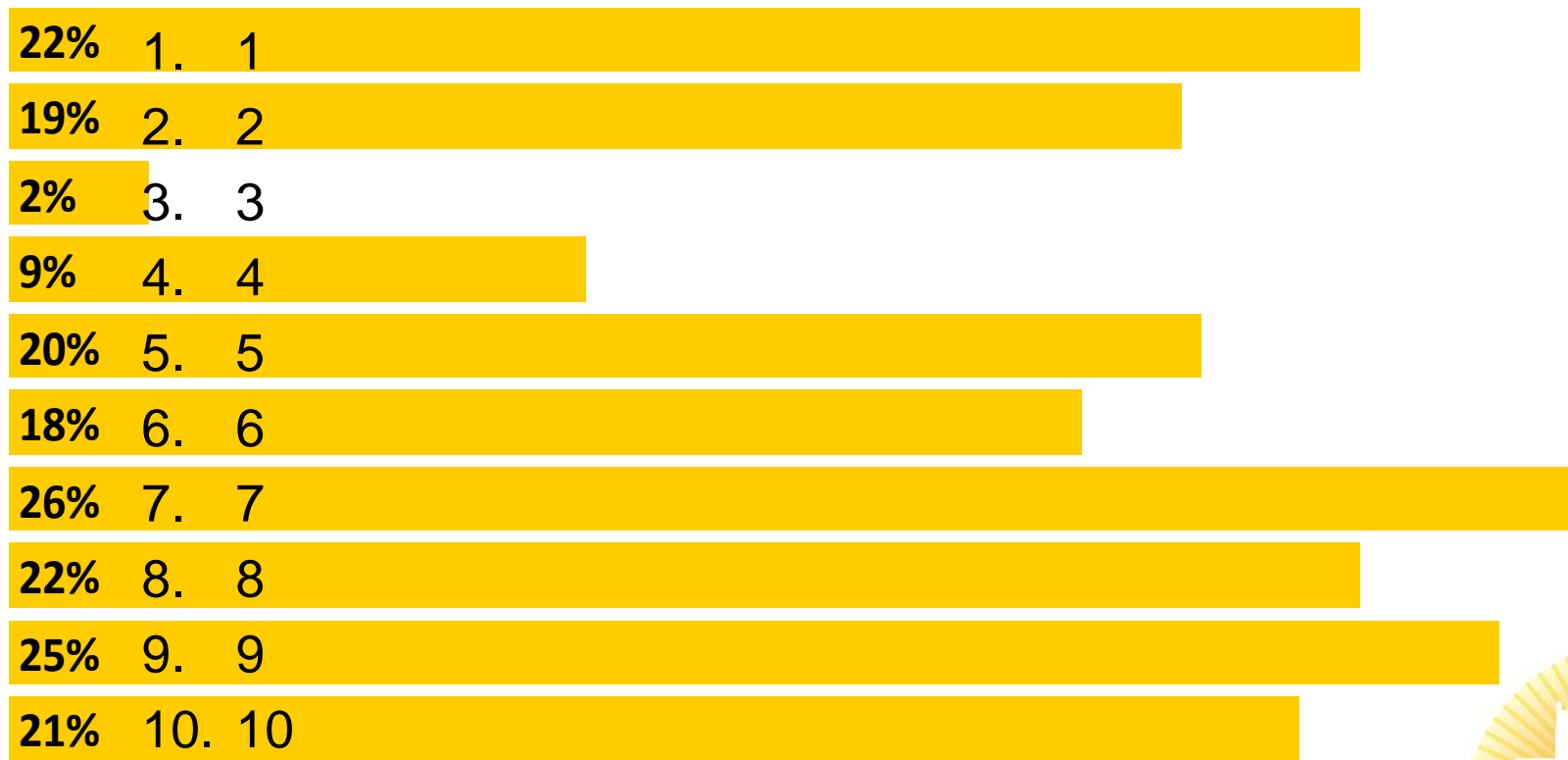
Re-Imagine our Neighborhoods – Additional Strategies

- Look for innovative models for demolition and reducing cost – re-use materials and employ local workforce
- Improve code enforcement to stabilize neighborhoods
- Address access and programs for people with disabilities
- Encourage residents to move to higher populated areas
- Change policies that make it easier for residents to purchase lots and vacant homes
- Create more incentives for businesses to come to the city
- Create a pathway for home ownership, rental maintenance and mini grants to allow residents to improve their homes
- No liquor stores near neighborhoods
- Make Government accountable to follow Master plan and transparent about expenditures
- Bring entertainment, events, festivals, community gardens, and recreation to the neighborhoods

Additional Strategies – Select 2

1. Look for innovative models for demolition and reducing cost – re-use materials and employ local workforce (22%)
2. Improve code enforcement to stabilize neighborhoods (19%)
3. Address access and programs for people with disabilities (2%)
4. Encourage residents to move to higher populated areas (9%)
5. Change policies that make it easier for residents to purchase lots and vacant homes (20%)
6. Create more incentives for businesses to come to the city (18%)
7. Create a pathway for home ownership, rental maintenance and mini grants to allow residents to improve their homes (26%)
8. No liquor stores near neighborhoods (22%)
9. Make Government accountable to follow Master plan and transparent about expenditures (25%)
10. Bring entertainment, events, festivals, community gardens, and recreation to the neighborhoods (21%)

Additional Strategies – Re-imagining neighborhoods



Did you learn anything new today?

7% 1. Nothing new

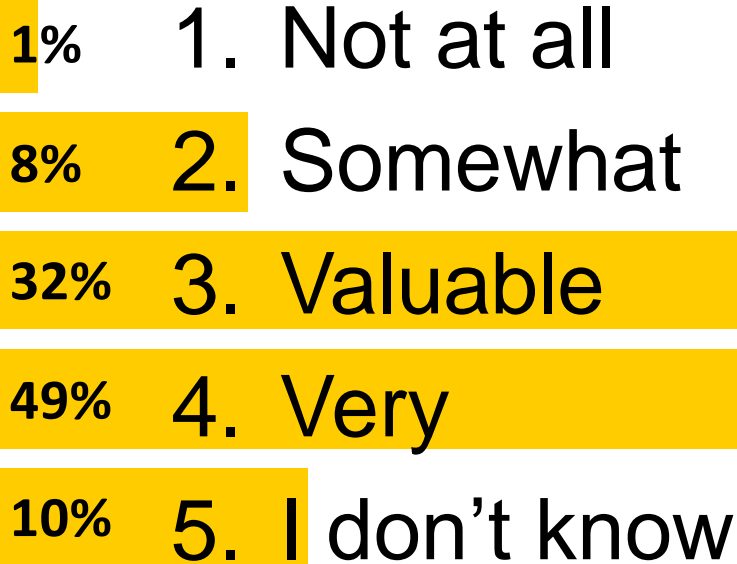
29% 2. A few new things

29% 3. Quite a bit

35% 4. A lot



How valuable was today's workshop for planning for Flint's future?



How satisfied are you with today's workshop?

2% 1. Not at all satisfied

14% 2. Somewhat satisfied

37% 3. Satisfied

48% 4. Very satisfied



Jim Richardson, Chair

Imagine Flint Steering Committee





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