

Outline for Structuring Ongoing Resident Participation in City of Flint Planning and Development

The Need: The City of Flint made a promise through the *Imagine Flint* Master Plan to engage residents in many aspects of City decision-making on an ongoing basis. As the Master Plan Steering Committee approaches the end of its tenure, a mechanism needs to be established for continued resident advice on matters related to the implementation of the adopted Master Plan and preparation for the required 5-year update to the Master Plan.

The Proposal: The City of Flint Planning Commission will convene a Master Plan Community Advisory Committee under its auspices comprised of 11 members (one resident from each ward plus two Planning Commissioners). Among the members, there should be at least one person with pertinent skills or experience in each area that the Department of Planning and Development addresses (i.e. planning and zoning, building safety, parks and recreation, and community and economic development.) The mandate of the group is not to direct staff, but rather to:

- Monitor the ongoing implementation of the Master Plan
- Advise on matters related to Planning and Development using the Master Plan as the lens of analysis, such as:
 - Allocating City grant dollars or other funds to community projects and organizations
 - Awarding investment incentives
- Organize the annual Master Plan community update (traditionally held in March of each year) as called for in the Master Plan
- Make recommendations regarding community outreach and serve as a sounding board for future planning processes, such as required updates to the Master Plan, 5-Year Parks and Recreation planning, etc.

The Rationale: Community engagement is the centerpiece of the *Imagine Flint* Master Plan and instituting a process for ongoing resident engagement during implementation is vital to maintain that trust. From a practical standpoint, given the staffing and resource limitations that exist, having a go-to group that serves in this capacity for the full breadth of Planning and Development functions (rather than staffing multiple distinct advisory groups) makes sense. In addition, by convening this Planning Commission committee, the strong connection is made to the implementation of the Master Plan. A secondary benefit is by being established by the Planning Commission, the committee is removed from the political process and administrative/staffing changes.

Proposed Next Steps:

- Solicit input from the Planning Commission, Mayor, City Council, City Administrator, and Master Plan Steering Committee
- Codify the purpose and terms of the Master Plan Community Advisory Committee in a “memorandum of understanding” to be reviewed by the Legal Department
 - Put the final “memorandum of understanding” document before the Planning Commission for official adoption