

Strategic Plan for Asylum Hill

Interim Report

October 4, 2021

List of Steering Committee Members (forthcoming)

The creation of neighborhood strategic plan is one of the most important responsibilities and privileges that the State of Connecticut conferred on Neighborhood Revitalization Zones (NRZs). In Asylum Hill, the Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association (AHNA) serves as our neighborhood's NRZ. Last year, the AHNA board of directors determined that it would engage in a comprehensive and inclusive planning process in 2021 to update the neighborhood's strategic plan. Broadly speaking, the goals of the planning process would be to:

- *Understand where we've been to help us determine where we want to go*
- *Identify key goals and priority projects for 2021 – 2025*
- *Foster participation and deeper support from AHNA's stakeholders*
- *Organize groups and new partnerships to oversee/implement the plan*

At a retreat in January, the board reviewed the progress made in the neighborhood in the years since it last adopted in 2009. It also discussed the findings of The Hartford's 2020 survey of neighborhood residents and stakeholders. Informed by these discussions, the board agreed on eight areas of focus for its strategic plan and commissioned a Steering Committee chaired by neighborhood resident Ted Carroll to oversee the planning process.

Since March, the Steering Committee has met three times and has formed eight task forces to address the following eight topics:

- *Art and Culture*
- *Economic Development*
- *Employment*
- *Environmental and Green Initiatives*
- *Housing and Historic Preservation*
- *Human Services*
- *Public Safety*
- *Youth and Education*

The Steering Committee has endorsed the goals, strategies and actions proposed by each of the eight task forces. This fall, the Steering Committee is sharing these recommendations with residents and stakeholders at its monthly membership meeting on October 4 and at its annual fundraiser/recognition breakfast in November. In the pages that follow, I am sharing the most

recent draft reports of what seven of the eight groups are envisioning for the Asylum Hill neighborhood. The eighth report (Youth and Education) will be sent in a day or two.

At the end of this report, you will find a summary of what we learned from The Hartford's survey in 2020 that was completed by about 300 people, about half of whom were from the neighborhood and about half were employees and other stakeholders.

Economic Development Task Force

Task Force Membership: Wayne Benjamin, Chair; Principal of Georgetown Associates; AHNA board member

Other TF members (forthcoming)

Vision: To revitalize the Farmington Avenue commercial corridor, transform empty buildings and brownfield sites, and support several “cornerstone” projects that will enhance the economic health of Asylum Hill’s businesses and residents.

Oversight Group: AHNA’s Economic Development Committee chaired by Wayne Benjamin

Goal 1: Encourage and support “Cornerstone” development projects – 2021 and beyond

To retain businesses and attract visitors and new residents, Asylum Hill must eliminate blighted, vacant and abandoned properties and transform them into productive and aesthetically pleasing assets.

Actions:

- Address Farmington Avenue’s vacant retail spaces and physical appearance by encouraging pop-up stores, tree plantings, crosswalk improvements, the reduction of both littering and loitering, and the final phase of streetscape improvements.
- Support the remediation, funding and restoration of the Aetna Diner
- Support the redevelopment of 85 Sigourney Street and encourage retail uses on the street level
- Provide input and support to the St. Francis Hospital Master Plan
- Advocate for funding of all cornerstone projects

Resources/Partnerships Required: Major employers, small businesses, capable and responsive developers, elected official from City, State and Federal government, the Farmington Avenue Alliance (FAA), the Business Improvement District (BID), CT Main Street, the City’s Dept. of Development Services (DDS), the State’s Dept. of Economic and Community Development (DECD), and funding from the federal government.

Goal 2: Remediate and redevelop the neighborhood’s “Brownfields” – 2021 and beyond

Most of Asylum Hill is already developed, but we could redevelop some strategic parcels if remediation measures are taken to eliminate site contamination. If we made such sites clean and “shovel-ready,” the neighborhood could attract development that produces jobs and property taxes while reducing environmental health risks.

Actions:

- Prioritize and maintain a list of contaminated sites for eventual redevelopment
- Develop a schedule for assessment, clean-up and remediation
- Advocate for funding of priority projects

Resources/Partnerships Required: City DSS, State DECD, State Dept. of Environmental Protection, Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); AHNA’s Environmental and Green Initiatives Committee –

Goal 3: Support the growth of new and existing businesses – 2021 and beyond

No urban neighborhood is complete without a thriving small business sector, but small businesses on Farmington Avenue and elsewhere in Asylum Hill face many challenges. We can meet those challenges, however, thorough a coordinated and expanded set of technical and financial services. By stabilizing and growing existing businesses and by attracting and incubating new ones, the neighborhood could be a source of new jobs and important services.

Actions:

- Identify and promote resources that areas businesses can tap for planning, training, and capital
- Connect new businesses, universities/colleges, entrepreneurs with mentors, business formation training, and potential investors
- Advocate for more financial and technical assistance as needed

Resources/Partnerships Required: City DDS, HEDCO, Liberty Bank, Webster Bank, University of Hartford, the Hartford Chamber of Commerce, the BID, reSET, the 224 EcoSpace, the Small Business Administration/ SCORE- Senior Core of Retired Executives, Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

Goal 4: Promote and support Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to spur large-scale development, Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), and innovation – 2021 and beyond

When neighborhood leaders, major employers and government officials are in agreement on what is needed to spur economic and community development, they can work together to enact big

changes. Over the next several years, major investments in land and infrastructure are being contemplated for I-84, Union Station, large brownfield tracts, and 85 Sigourney Street among others. By working together, neighborhood residents and leaders from the public and private sectors have an opportunity to leverage those investments in ways that can produce profound, lasting and healthy changes to Asylum Hill.

Action: Create and sustain a consortium of community, business and government leaders that will meet at least twice a year to explore current issues, future trends and proposed major infrastructure projects affecting Asylum Hill.

Resources/Partnerships Required: In-kind support and participation from neighborhood leaders and from officials of The Hartford, CVS-Aetna, St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, area utility companies, and local, State and Federal government.

Environmental and Green Initiatives Task Force

Task Force Membership: Lynn Johnson, Chair; Earth Activist and AHNA board member

Other TF members (forthcoming)

Vision: That Asylum Hill be known as a model urban green community and become a more beautifully sustainable place to live, work and visit.

Oversight Group: AHNA's Environment and Green Committee chaired by Lynn Johnson

Goal 1: Expand our native tree canopy to 30% of Asylum Hill

(need a brief statement on why)

Actions:

- Conduct a tree assessment – 2021-2022
- Develop a plan for replenishing tree canopy - 2022
- Begin implementation of plan - 2023

Resources/Partnerships Required: Knox staff, volunteer tree counters, and dedicated funding at each stage

Goal 2: Develop Asylum Hill Pollinator Gardens

(need a brief statement on why)

Actions:

- Plant and maintain first pollinator garden on Hawthorne Street – 2021
- Publish articles and educational materials to promote more pollinator gardens – 2021 and beyond
- Establish and maintain additional pollinator gardens – 2022 and beyond

Resources/Partnerships Required: Grants from Love Your Block and from Sustainability CT; numerous volunteers

Goal 3: Conserve the north branch of the Park River

(need a brief statement on why)

Actions:

- Remove invasive species – 2021 and beyond
- Complete tree count and assessment – 2022
- Implement runoff and flood control measures – 2021- 2023
- Plan and design linear park – 2022 – 2024
- Build park with multiple and safe access points – beginning in 2025

Resources/Partnerships Required: Support from property owners; funding from private and public sources; multiple volunteers

Goal 4: Plan and implement bike paths and traffic calming areas in Asylum Hill

(need a brief statement on why)

Actions: Work with Planning Dept, Dept. of Public Works, (Bike/Walk CT?) and concerned citizens to develop plans, secure funding, and implement measures to facilitate safer bike travel and safer driving.

Goal 5: Develop a program to collect residents' food scraps and turn them into compost

By taking organic material out of the waste stream, we incinerate less trash, thus saving the City money. At the same time, this material can be converted to compost for gardens in Asylum Hill.

Actions:

- Install composting equipment at Niles Street Garden as a demonstration project – 2021
- Develop and disseminate educational materials on composting – 2021 and beyond
- Establish pilot program to collect and compost food scraps – 2022-2023

Resources/Partnerships Required: Funding from Thrivent Financial, Love Your Block and the City; working agreements with Blue Earth and City; participation of numerous volunteers, homeowners and building managers

Goal 6: Encourage energy efficiency and solarization in Asylum Hill homes, schools, businesses and places of worship.

(need a brief statement on why)

Actions:

- Record video “Personal Pathway to “Renewable Energy” for educational purposes – 2021

- Organize “Green Energy Fair” in Sigourney Park – 2021
- Encourage energy audits on local buildings – 2021 and beyond

Resources/Partnerships Required: Technical assistance from Energy Efficiencies Solutions, Inc, People’s Actions for Clean Energy, Earth Forward, (and Eversource?;)Funding from Thrivent Financial (and government energy conservation and clean energy programs?); (numerous homeowners and building managers willing to participate)

Housing and Historic Preservation Task Force

Ken Johnson, Chair; NINA Executive Director; AHNA board member

add names of other members (forthcoming)

Vision: To transform Asylum Hill into an affordable and attractive neighborhood of choice to a diverse population seeking either ownership or rental opportunities.

Oversight Group: Continuation of Housing and Historic Preservation Task Force and, when capacity permits, a permanent AHNA Committee

Goal 1: Increase homeownership opportunities

Studies have shown that increasing home ownership can simultaneously stabilize a neighborhood and generate wealth for the homeowner. Due to the nature of the current housing stock, home ownership in Asylum Hill is at about 10%, the lowest in the city. Still, by recapturing blighted and vacant properties, there is an opportunity to create more home ownership for current and future residents of Asylum Hill.(

Actions:

- *Increase focus on identifying potential development sites for homeownership projects*
- *Work with government officials and funders to encourage development of market-rate, owner-occupied homes*
- *Partner with organizations that prepare neighborhood residents for homeownership*
- *Proactively share AHNA housing priorities with elected and appointed officials and work with them to ensure AHNA is a required part of project approval process*
- *Work with government officials to declare a moratorium on multi-unit, income restricted rental housing projects that are crowding out homeownership opportunities.*

Resources/Partnerships Required: NINA staff, City staff and elected officials, and Asylum Hill residents who wish to promote this policy objective

Goal 2: Remediate and eliminate blight

Capturing and redeveloping distressed properties in Asylum Hill provides an opportunity for potential homeowners while making the neighborhood safer and more livable for all its residents

Actions:

- Identify deteriorated, dilapidated and blighted structures and create updatable catalogue
- Work with municipal officials and the Hartford Land Bank to ensure anti-blight ordinance is effectively enforced and that foreclosed properties are returned to use as owner-occupied homes
- Work with municipal officials to ensure publicly-funded housing continues to meet City housing quality standards

Resources/Partnerships Required: NINA staff, City Housing Dept. and Hartford Land Bank

Goal 3: Encourage transit-oriented development

(need a brief statement on why)

Actions:

- Work with government officials and funders to promote historic preservation and adaptive re-use of vacant or blighted buildings
- Identify transit-oriented districts in Asylum Hill
- Work with neighborhood institutions to assess post-pandemic parking needs and to invest in potential development projects at retired surface parking lots

Resources/Partnerships Required: Area companies and churches with excess surface parking lots; AHNA Economic Development Committee

Goal 4: Promote historic preservation and discourage demolition

(need a brief statement on why)

Actions:

- Work with government officials and funders to promote historic preservation and adaptive re-use of vacant or blighted buildings
- Work with Hartford Preservation Alliance to expand Asylum Hill historic district
- Develop material and tours that promote the value of historic preservation

Resources/Partnerships Required: NINA staff, Hartford Preservation Alliance, government officials and funders

Public Safety Task Force

Task Force Membership: Janine McMahon, Interim Director of Asylum Hill Family Center? and AHNA board member

Ted Carroll (Res.); Maxine Nugent (parent leader), Jackie McKinney (AHNA Chair), Capt. Ian Powell (HPD), Lt. Rose O'Shea (HPD), Ofcr. Cid Palmieri (HPD), Paul O'Mara (AHNA Board & Res), Louisa Barton-Duguay (AHNA Board & Res), Lynn Johnson (AHNA Board & Res), Andrew Woods (Hartford Communities That Care), David Corrigan (NINA), Ashley Tucker (AH Family Center ED), Dean Jones (Compass Youth Collaborative), Alexis Dwyer (Res), Natalia Crispin (Res), Bernie Michel (AHNA staff), David MacDonald AHNA staff)

Vision: To create, in reality and in perception, a safe, pedestrian-friendly, and inviting neighborhood for all who live, work and visit the Asylum Hill neighborhood.

Oversight Group: AHNA's Public Safety Task Force chaired by Janine McMahon

Goal 1: Create a safer haven for families and children at Sigourney Square Park.

Sigourney Square Park is one of the few open spaces in our densely built neighborhood. However, as one of our parent leaders noted, there are usually few children utilizing the playground. Another parent leader expressed concerns about bringing children to a place where there is much litter and where idle men are often drinking.

Actions:

- *re-establish a Friends of Sigourney Square Park Group to initiate and support security measures, clean-ups and family-friendly activities*
- *have a presence on the City Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) to help guide City resources and attention to park needs*
- *examine and build on recommendations from parent leader*
- *work with Hartford Police Dept., Dept. of Public Works and CPTED-trained consultants to determine environmental design changes (lighting, fencing, benches, trash receptacles) to create more welcoming and safer space*
- *approach area churches about holding regular services at the park*

Resources/Partnerships Required: HPD, DPW, CPTED (need full name?), Youth Challenge, Asylum Hill Family Center, AHNA's Environmental and Green Initiatives Committee, AHNA's Youth Task Force, NINA, PRAC, area churches and scores of volunteers

Goal 2: Address speeding, noise and other quality of life issues

When asked about the concerns they have about living in Asylum Hill, residents often cite quality of life issues such as noise from firecrackers, speeding cars, litter and the like. To make Asylum Hill more livable for its current residents and more attractive to its future ones, these issues must be addressed.

Note: I have consolidated strategies 2 and 4 from our draft report

Actions:

- HPD to deploy officers trained in dealing with the homeless population, speeding, noise and other important quality of life issues
- Work with Knox, the Business Improvement District (BID), the Environmental and Green Initiative Committee and volunteers on regular clean-up and beautification projects
- Work with State legislature to enact “Red light” cameras to address traffic violations
- Establish periodic DUI check points on Farmington and Asylum Avenues
- Work with City Dept. of Public Works (DPW) to determine location of additional speed humps and other traffic calming measures
- Deploy drones as needed to curb misuse of ATVs
- Add and adjust speed limit signs where appropriate
- Set up speed monitor trailer in strategic locations
- Encourage City to evaluate safety of rental scooters
- Work with Community Court to identify judicial appropriate actions
- Consider establishing neighborhood watch groups in selected locations
- Educate public about the need to provide HPD specific information (date, time location) when violations occur

Resources/Partnerships Required: HPD, DPW, Hartford Community Court, Knox, volunteers from area businesses, churches and schools,

Goal 3: Reduce automobile break-ins and other larcenies

Automobile break-ins and other larcenies are the biggest contributors to the recent increases in crime in Asylum Hill, constituting more than 35% of overall crime over the last two years.

Actions:

- Identify additional “hot spots” for further deployment of temporary cameras
- Investigate the reactivation and possible replication of surveillance program previously established on South Marshall.
- Encourage homeowners to connect their “ring cameras” to HPD
- Educate public about the need to remove valuables and other items from cars, park in driveways whenever possible, and using 311 to call in problems like malfunctioning street lights

Resources/Partnerships Required: HPD, homeowners and other neighborhood residents, funding for additional cameras

Goal 4: Reduce Gun Violence

While murders are among the lowest in the city, the number of assaults and other crimes against people (more than 100 a year in 2020 and 2019) is unacceptably high.

Actions:

- *Monitor ideas for reform and be prepared to work with Safe Streets CT and local front-line groups to advocate for blended solutions to address this issue – that is, both more law enforcement and more prevention programs for youth.*
- *As an ally to those on the front line, advocate for more policy and funding support of those engaged in anti-violence efforts*
- *Ensure training for youth on how to respond to conflict in non-violent ways*

Resources/Partnerships Required: Hartford Police Dept., Compass Youth Collaborative, Hartford Communities that Care, Safe Streets CT, local schools

Goal 5: Identify, prepare and recruit more Hartford residents to become candidates for the police department

Hartford struggles to hire a police force that reflects the racial and social background of its citizens. Of late, the number of interested and qualified applicants to fill job openings has diminished further still.

Actions:

- *Link with ALICE Challenge - Working Cities Collaboration*
- *Identify people who are unemployed or under-employed who can get training and certification to get employed quickly*
- *Strengthen and promote Police Explorers, cadet program and Police Athletic League*
- *Encourage City to offer competitive salary and benefit packages*
- *Work with POSTC (Police Officers Standards and Training Council) to update requirements that would enable the creation of a larger pool of potential candidates.*
- *Explore partnership between HPD, Hartford Public High School and CREC to pilot effort to introduce public safety careers in Hartford.*

Resources/Partnerships Required:

Arts and Culture Task Force

Task Force Membership: Jackie McKinney, chair; AHNA board chair and City 311 dispatcher?

List of Other members (forthcoming)

Vision: *To create more vitality in Asylum Hill by supporting its artists and by celebrating the neighborhood's diverse cultures and rich history.*

Oversight Group: AHNA's Arts and Culture Committee, a new group to be formed

Goal 1: Promote Asylum Hill as a destination for those who enjoy art, culture and history.

The Asylum Hill neighborhood includes the Mark Twain House and the Harriett Beecher Stowe House at one end, artists' homes and studios at the other end, and creative venues such as the 224 EcoSpace in between. By promoting itself as an arts and culture corridor, the neighborhood could attract more visitors and businesses and instill more pride in its residents..

Actions:

- Develop a marketing campaign to brand Asylum Hill as an Arts and Culture corridor
- Organize a Farmington Avenue festival to highlight its art and cultural heritage
- Advocate to extend the free Dash shuttle to Nook Farm

Resources/Partnerships:

Please note who and what is required to meet this goal

Goal 2: Provide opportunities to showcase the neighborhood's art and artists

Say a word about why this is important

Actions:

- Create an AHA! (Asylum Hill Artists) Exhibit as part of the larger Farmington Avenue Festival or as a stand-alone event
- Support efforts to have more art in the neighborhood such as more murals, art in the windows of vacant commercial property, art on electrical or utility boxes, bus shelters, crosswalks, or statues to celebrate the diversity of today's Asylum Hill

- Ensure that the new train station being proposed will display original signature pieces from local artists
- Collaborate with the Stowe Center's plan for an outdoor installation that would be accessible to the community

Resources/Partnership:

Please note who and what is required to meet this goal

Goal 3: Celebrate the history of Asylum Hill

Say a word about why this is important. Include our Native American roots

Actions:

- Explore feasibility of obtaining a Cultural Place or Historic District designation for Farmington Avenue, inclusive of the Comet Diner, the CVS-Aetna building, Nook Farm, etc.
- Highlight history, architecture and other unique neighborhood aspects on walking, biking and bus tours

Resources/Partnerships Required: Please note who and what is required to meet this goal

Employment Task Force

Task Force Membership: Yvonne Mathews, Chair and AHNA board member

List members of the Asylum Hill Working Cities Challenge (forthcoming)

Vision: Residents of Asylum Hill will have ready access to resources that will lead to meaningful and sustainable employment.

Oversight Group: ? Will there be a new AHNA committee or can we charge Urban League or the “Asylum Hill Working Cities Challenge” with responsibility for ensuring that the goals below are met?

Goal 1: Publicize job opportunities in Asylum Hill and elsewhere in the city.

(note: this is a new proposal) As transportation is a major barrier, particularly for jobs outside the city, Asylum Hill residents and those who serve them need to know about available jobs inside the city. Providing such information would also assist local employers seeking qualified and diverse applicants.

Actions:

Is this something that Capital Workforce Partners or some other entity is doing? If not, who can take this on?

Resources/Partnerships:

Please note who and what is required to meet this goal

Goal 2: Increase effective marketing and coordination of existing resources that can address transportation, affordable childcare, mental health and other barriers to employment.

Youth and young adults, and those agencies that serve them, are not sufficiently aware of current job training programs and support services.

Actions:

- *Create and maintain an on-line directory of programs and services which schools, HR professionals, non-profit agencies and individuals can access for up-to-date information*
- *Use social media and other tools to drive those seeking job training and support services to the established web-site*
- *Organize and promote a pilot Workforce Resource Fairs to help connect residents to jobs and careers as well as to job training and employment support services.*

Resources/Partnerships:

Please note who and what is required to meet this goal

Goal 3: Ensure the availability of additional services needed by residents to overcome barriers to training and employment opportunities.

(new proposal) Even with greater awareness and better coordination of existing services, there may be need for additional supports to meet the employment and job training needs of Asylum Hill residents.

Actions:

- *Survey employers and service providers to determine where there are insufficient resources to meet the job and job training needs of applicants*
- *Share survey findings with employers, schools and service providers so that they may focus their resources more effectively*
- *Advocate for more government support of proven services that meet residents' job and job training needs*

Resources/Partnerships:

Please note who and what is required to meet this goal

Goal 4: Create more internships, particularly ones that offer stipends, for youth 18 and under.

We know that the lack of paid internships is a major barrier to young people. Students often need to help generate income for their families even as they prepare for their future careers.

Actions:

What might we propose here?

Resources/Partnership:

Please note who and what is required to meet this goal

Goal 5: Expand the number of case managers and volunteer mentors who can guide those seeking training and employment opportunities.

Even for experienced job seekers, navigating the current job and job training network can be confusing and frustrating. An increase of both skilled professionals and a host of volunteer mentors will be required to serve more residents more effectively.

Actions:

What might we propose here?

Resources/Partnership:

Please note who and what is required to meet this goal

What about:

- *Enforcing employment set-asides for City residents, especially minority group members.*
- *Apprenticeship and internship programs*
- *Career readiness pathways for HS students and for returning citizens*
- *Adult Ed and ESL programs*

Human Services Task Force

Task Force Membership: Esther Gonzales-Torres, Chair; Executive Director of Youth Challenge CT and AHNA board member

Listing of other TF members (forthcoming)

Vision: Residents of Asylum Hill will have access to the services needed to help themselves and their families become all they can be.

Oversight Group: ? Will there be a new AHNA committee or can we charge the group that Nancy has been working with to take this on?

Goal 1: Ensure that existing services are well coordinated, better known and more accessible

Asylum Hill has a wide range of agencies that are serving the multiple needs of our residents, but more must be done to ensure that our residents know about these services and that such services are properly linked and efficiently delivered.

Actions:

- Continue, expand and give more support to consortium of agencies already meeting on a regular basis.
- Create and maintain an on-line directory of programs and services that schools, HR professionals, non-profit agencies and individuals can access for up-to-date information
- Use social media and other tools to drive those seeking support services to the established web-site
- Establish and publicize locations where residents can meet with professional staff and/or mentors and where they can use telephones and computers to connect with service providers, job opportunities, court appointments, etc.

Resources/Partnerships:

Please note who and what is required to meet this goal, but it should be coordinated with those surveying about employment and job training needs.

Goal 2: Ensure the availability of additional services needed by residents to address their social, economic and health needs.

Even with greater awareness and better coordination of existing services, there may be need for additional supports to meet the needs of current and future Asylum Hill residents.

Actions:

- *Survey service providers to determine where there are insufficient resources to meet the needs of those they serve*
- *Share survey findings with schools, service providers and funders so that they may focus their resources more effectively*
- *Advocate for more government support of proven services that meet residents' social, health and economic needs*

Resources/Partnerships:

Please note who and what is required to meet this goal, but it should be coordinated with those surveying about employment and job training needs.

*What about the POCD recommendation re:
"the recovery and redistribution of institutional food?"*

Summary of 2020 Survey Conducted by The Hartford

During the summer of 2020, The Hartford conducted a survey of Asylum Hill's residents, workers and visitors to enlist their views of the neighborhood and their views on what was needed to help improve the neighborhood. More than 300 participated in the survey with slightly more than half identifying as residents and slightly less than half identifying either as a worker or visitor. While there were many good qualitative comments collected from the survey, the following is only a summary of the quantitative data.

Key Findings:

1. *How do you feel the Asylum Hill neighborhood has been changing?*
 - 33% feel the neighborhood is getting at least a little bit better, a view held more by visitors and workers than by residents
 - 35% feel things are about the same
 - 20% feel things are getting at least a little worse, a view held more by residents than by visitors and workers
 - 11% were unsure
2. *Are neighborhood needs unique to Asylum Hill or do they apply more broadly to the entire city?*

More than 83% of respondents felt the neighborhood's needs were similar to those in other parts of the city, with 79% of residents and 88% of visitors/workers feeling this way.

3. *What has been biggest impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Asylum Hill?*
 - Effects on educational and other youth-serving programs – 39%
 - Job loss/reduction of hours - 33%
 - Strain on financial resources and support services – 19%
 - Closed businesses – 9%

Note: there was a not a significant difference in responses between residents and visitors/workers

4. *Looking ahead 5 – 10 years, which improvements would you most like to see?*
 - 33% would like to see more economic development and/or lower unemployment rate, a view held slightly more often by residents
 - 30% want to feel a greater sense of safety, a view held slightly more often by visitors/workers

- *Many fewer (about 10%) thought that such issues as more market rate housing, better access to food and improved education outcomes should be the main priorities*

5. *What does the Asylum Hill community need most right now?*

- *Improved public safety – 18% (with another 6% wanting to see an improvement in the police department's relationship to the community)*
- *More employment and job resources – 18%*
- *Efforts to address housing and homelessness – 10% (with another 10% wanting to see more resources to address hunger) Note: those who visit/work in AH identified this issue somewhat more often than residents*