

6.0 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Successfully implementing the strategies, programs and catalytic projects described in this document will require strong leadership working with new and established partnerships. These partnerships will be assigned the task of advancing the overall agenda and shepherding it through challenges that inevitably arise with implementation. Depending upon the nature of the strategy, program or project, the partnerships and tools for implementation will vary. True change in the neighborhood will result from a concerted effort by all parties, each doing what it can within its legal and fiscal authority. Given the costs and the extended time frame required to implement many of the plan's objectives, the need for strong, ongoing partnerships will be especially critical as the neighborhood's political and economic dynamics change.

No single entity has the responsibility, the authority, or the financial capability to implement all of the plan's objectives. Although the recommended programs, projects and initiatives will need an initiating party responsible for leading the effort, most objectives will rely on an interdependent partnership to build the necessary public and political support for the intended change. For example, the City can enforce building code violations, but its effectiveness is enhanced when community organizations and neighborhoods report violations; the County is better able to improve transit routes with input

from neighborhood citizens and merchants. Working with private developers and the City, neighborhood groups can strategically locate and develop new affordable owner-occupied housing in locations that support existing property values.

One of the principal ways that neighborhood residents can be directly involved in plan implementation and related decisions is to go to the DCD website at www.mkedcd.org and subscribe to the City's E-Notify system, which allows residents to provide input as projects for special districts, zoning changes, plan amendments, etc. are considered and approved. The E-Notify system allows recipients – neighborhood residents and stakeholders – to choose topics that will come before Common Council committees, the City Plan Commission, the Board of Zoning Appeals, the Redevelopment Authority, the Historic Preservation Commission, etc., and to receive information prior to hearings so they can attend and knowledgeably testify as to the impact the decision will have on them or on the neighborhood in general.

Project updates for the Plan Area will be posted regularly on the DCD website. Planning decisions will be made over time as projects are developed, refined, and considered by boards and commissions. Citizen input on plan implementation and public decision-making that affects the neighborhood should

be part of approvals for planning, zoning and special districts (for example, National Register Districts, Local Landmark Districts, Neighborhood Conservation Districts, Tax Increment Finance Districts and Business Improvement Districts). The majority of these approvals are based on: design standards set to protect architectural character, physical design features, history and community values, staff recommendations, and input of citizens and elected officials. There are also a number of development-related decisions, such as street changes and zoning changes, which cumulatively have a strong impact on neighborhood character. Neighborhood residents should make their voices heard on all matters that affect their property, livelihood, neighborhood and quality of life.