

Consolidated Annual Report

for the Mt. Auburn Community Council (MACC)

Presented by

Stanley E. Broadnax, M.D.; Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Freeman McNeal, MACC President

10-18-10

<u>New meeting location for MACC Meetings secured</u>	The <u>Taft Historic Site Education Center</u> was secured as the new meeting place for MACC meeting, when the Senior Citizen Center closed because of budget cuts suffered by the Cincinnati Area Senior Services
<u>New Community Garden in Mt. Auburn</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A new Mt. Auburn Community Garden was initiated after several meetings between MACC, Mt. Auburn Chamber, Civic Garden Club, and Center for Closing the Health Gap, Messer Construction and the Christ Hospital. Dr. Broadnax and Freeman McNeal served as the MACC representatives.2. The site of the new garden is vacant property located at Auburn Ave and Mason St. that was made available by the Christ Hospital. Additionally, the Christ Hospital provided water to the site and landscaping3. Messer construction built the raised garden boxes. The Civic Garden Center Provided Training for residents.4. Pharon Wilson has volunteered for the position of garden coordinator. There were 20 gardens attended by Residents.5. The kick-off for the new community garden was successfully held on Saturday 4-17-10. There were 13 gardeners who planted on 19 raised beds.
<u>Successful Mt. Auburn Clean Up Program 4-24-10</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. There were over 120 volunteers who participated in the Mt. Auburn Clean-up day on 4-24-10. The trash drop site was at Jackson Hill Park.2. The event took place from 8am to 12-noon. The headquarters will be at Mt. Auburn Community Center. The Christ Hospital provided a continental breakfast
<u>Successful efforts to get the administration of the NSP (Neighborhood Support Program) transferred back to Invest in Neighborhood (INN)</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. This program which provides \$7000 each year to community councils to support several programs. MACC was involved with other neighborhoods in meetings with City Council to transfer the administration of the NSP program from the City Administration back to Invest In Neighborhoods (IIN).2. MACC efforts were successful in getting the program transferred back to INN after a disastrous year being administered by the city which delayed payments to vendors and program managers.3.
<u>Employment Initiative for Mt. Auburn Residents</u>	Dr. Stanley Broadnax chaired and Freeman McNeal have served on the Uptown Consortium Employment Ad hoc committee whose purpose is to increase employment opportunities for residents in the 5 Uptown neighborhoods (Mt. Auburn, Avondale, Corryville, Clifton and CUF). <u>FIRST EVENT</u> -500 Uptown residents showed up to apply for jobs at the new Hampton Inn on MLK and Short Vine. <u>SECOND EVENT</u> -186 Uptown residents showed up for an employment information sessions to learn how to access employment at The Christ Hospital, Children's Hospital, University Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital and the University of Cincinnati. Additionally, we are working with several job readiness programs to assist residents in their job seeking and job readiness skills
<u>Wayfinding for Uptown</u>	Dr. Broadnax represented Mt. Auburn for the last 2 years on the Uptown Wayfinding Planning Committee that

	<p>was organized by the Dept. Traffic Engineering. This effort upgraded the vehicular and pedestrian signage to facilitate visitors to Uptown finding their way to major destination points; usually large employers entertainment attractions. The program was implemented through construction of the signs in 2010</p>
<p><u>Successful completion of Mt. Auburn Employment Program for Empowerment Zone Grant</u></p>	<p>a. THE GOAL of this employment services grant program is to increase employability of Hard to Serve Empowerment Zone youth and adults. Hard to serve being defined as those with no job experience, ex-offenders, no high school diploma or GED, no specific skills</p> <p>b. Dr. Broadnax wrote the grant and served as the executive director between 2007 and 2010.</p> <p>c. Productivity exceeded by over 250% our Projected Outcomes-For the total grant period (2007 to 2010) we projected to service 232 EZ residents. As of the end of the grant period in April 2010 we have serviced 580 EZ residents which are 250% higher than projected.</p> <p>d. Majority of Grant Funds Paid Directly to Students as Stipends. This puts EZ dollars directly in the student's pockets for such things as paying for transportation to job interviews, baby sitting fees to allow mothers to job hunt, personal hygiene items, police checks, birth certificate copies, etc.</p> <p>e. Focus on Customer Service, Conflict Resolution and Violence Prevention- Many residents can get a job, but they can't keep it. Many job terminations result from a lack of skills to resolve conflicts with customers, co-workers and supervisors. Therefore, we have inserted a program to address these deficiencies.</p> <p>f. To avoid duplication, we collaborated with other community training programs-We have developed linkages with several agencies that have skilled based training. These include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ---Job Corp has the following skills based programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Certified Nursing Assistant; ii. Auto Repair; iii. Business and Computer Skills; iv. Carpentry; Culinary Arts; v. Building & Facility Maintenance; and vi. Welding ----Urban League which as the SOAR and ACE programs that helps participants develop the skills necessary to obtain meaningful and stable employment in the call center industry ----Great Oaks Health Professions Academy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State Tested Nursing Assistant 2. Patient Care Assistant (5 weeks) 3. Health Unit Coordinator Program (12 weeks) ----Life Skill Center-This program allows residents to complete their GED or get a high School diploma.

<u>Secured \$5000 Grant to support Mt. Auburn Day</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Dr. Broadnax submitted a grant request to the Center for Closing the Health Gap for \$5000 to support the Mt. Auburn Day event in September 2010. 4. The grant request was approved. Even though they supported the event in 2009, they cannot guarantee that they will be able to provide funding in 2011.
<u>Successful Mt. Auburn Day</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Free food, live entertainment, health screenings, health information, education information, youth games and historic information were just a few of the activities that were part of the Mt. Auburn Day 2010. 2. The following community partners participated: The Christ Hospital, the Center for Closing the Health Gap, Taft Elementary School, Taft Historic Site, D & D Last Minute Catering
<u>Mt. Auburn Day- Workmen's Compensation Account to hire police officers</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. In 2009 and 2010, it was necessary for MACC to establish an account with Ohio Bureau of Workmen's Compensation in order to hire off-duty police officers. 6. The Workmen's Comp is a requirement of the City of Cincinnati when off-duty police officers wear uniforms and guns; and may make arrest if laws are broken.. We needed to maintain this account in 2010 in order to hire off-duty police for Mt. Auburn Day 2010. The amount to be paid is \$95.00
<u>Weatherization Program</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. The Community Action Agency (CAA) made a presentation to MACC about the federal stimulus dollars they received to provide home or apartment weatherization services for low –moderate income residents. 8. CAA will conduct an outreach campaign to work with eligible low income residents.
<u>Streetcar Route in Mt. Auburn</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Dr. Stanley Broadnax and Freeman McNeal served on a committee to determine the Streetcar route from Downtown to Uptown. Along with Holly Dorna, Mt. Auburn Chamber of Commerce President, Heather Adkins and Bill Wehking from The Christ Hospital and other Uptown community representatives and the City's Department of Transportation along with their consultants, they discussed alternative routes for the Uptown streetcar connector 10. The Phase I loop is designed to run from downtown to Over the Rhine and back. A second phase would extend to Uptown and then return to downtown. 11. We learned early on that an Uptown streetcar connector extending down any length of Auburn Avenue is not feasible because of excessively steep grades that exceed the design capabilities of the streetcars. These Mt. Auburn streets include Sycamore, Dorchester and McGregor. They were all studied and all exceed the maximum 9% grade and both American made streetcars under consideration are not designed to handle that grade. There are also issues of the Mt. Auburn street widths narrower than the desired 40 feet and difficult turning radii and grade changes at Sycamore and Dorchester.
<u>Kroger & Walgreen to be rebuilt at University Plaza</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Dr. Broadnax and Freeman McNeal collaborated with the Corryville Community Council to support the construction of a new Kroger and Walgreen at University Plaza 13. Demolition is set to begin January 2011 on the new Kroger and the opening is set for the Fall of 2011
<u>Supported Light House Youth Services Transitional Housing for homeless youth in Mt. Auburn</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. MACC supported the establishment of a new facility in Mt. Auburn for Light House Youth Services. 15. They will provide transitional and permanent housing for homeless youth. 16. The new building will be located at 2522 Highland Ave (near William Howard Taft). The building will be renovated with private funds of \$1.2 million dollars.
<u>Updating the 1992 Mt.</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. There have been several meetings since March 2010, to update the 1992 Mt. Auburn Plan.

<p><u>Auburn Plan-status report</u></p>	<p>18. The plan will address housing, retail and commercial development; transportation and circulation; parks and recreation.</p> <p>19. We have had the involvement of the Director of City Planning, Charles Graves; the Director of City Transportation and Engineering; and Vice Mayor Roxanne Qualls</p> <p>20. The planning steering committee consists of residents, business owners, property owners, the MACC, the Mt. Auburn Chamber of Commerce; the Christ Hospital; God’s Bible School, Taft Elementary School, Planned Parenthood and many others.</p> <p>21. After the subcommittees come up with recommendations, then we will have a series of public meeting for the general public to give in-put into the preliminary recommendations. This public in-put will be incorporated into the final draft of a Mt. Auburn Plan that will be presented to City Planning Commission for approval and adoption</p>
<p><u>Uptown Community Development Committee</u></p>	<p>a. Dr. Broadnax is chairing the Uptown Consortium’s Community Development Committee. Freeman McNeal is a member of the committee</p> <p>b. The major efforts of the committee will be</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Employment opportunities for Uptown (Mt. Auburn) residents in Uptown institutions including Children’s Hospital, Tri-Health, U.C., University Hospital and Christ Hospital 2. Workforce Housing- developing housing ownership opportunities for working families earning who might be able to afford a house valued between \$70,000 to \$150,000. This would include nurses, lab technicians, school teachers, fire fighter, police officers, administrative assistants, etc. 3. Neighborhood Business District Development 4. Taft Elementary School Marketing efforts 5. Updating the 1990 Uptown Comprehensive Development Plan 6. Green Initiatives 7. Decreasing property taxes for new business locating in Uptown low-income neighborhoods
<p><u>Successful efforts to increase enrollment at Taft Elementary School</u></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MACC participated in an ad hoc committee to increase enrollment at Taft to address the concern over the low student enrollment at the school which puts Taft Scholl in jeopardy. Early 2009-2010 the attendance was approximately 156; the Board of Education required an attendance level of at least 400 students to justify the schools continued existence 2. Consequently, neighborhoods of south Uptown (Corryville, CUF and Mt. Auburn) will be joining with CPS and the Uptown Consortium to support efforts at Taft develop an outreach and marketing campaign to attract students from Mt. Auburn and the other neighborhoods. 3. As of September 2010, the schools attendance was approximately 350. This was attributed to the excellent job done by Taft School administrator’s efforts to outreach to the community.
<p><u>Disparity Study City Development Funding</u></p>	<p>22. Pauline Van der Haar has coordinated a committee of volunteers who have conducted a research study of the lack of funding received by Mt. Auburn to support community development when compared to other neighborhoods.</p> <p>23. Pauline projects that the report will be completed at the end of April; a draft will be brought back to the board for review, then a final report will be released.</p>
<p><u>Malvern St.-Huntington Place</u></p>	<p>24. C.J and Kelly have been communicating with the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) about converting this private</p>

<p><u>Private Sewer</u></p>	<p>sewer to a public sewer. CJ reported that MSD is now willing to make the conversion at no cost to the property owners; this is new because for 20 years they were going to charge \$5000 to each property owner. All that is needed is for property owners to grant an easement to MSD to cross their properties.</p> <p>25. <u>PROBLEM</u>-there are about four property owners who have not granted the easement. MACC has been trying for nearly 25 years to get this conversion done. However, MSD was going to charge each property owner \$5000 to pay the cost of the conversion.</p> <p>26. <u>SOLUTION</u>- it was suggested that a letter needs to be written to the property owners explaining what an easement is, property owner could end up paying up to 5000 each for future repairs to the private sewer.</p>
<p><u>Proposed Military Academy in Mt. Auburn Sponsored by Cincinnati Change on</u></p>	<p>1. We received information from Hershel Daniels regarding the proposed plan of his organization, Cincinnati Change, to construct a military academy in Mt. Auburn at the corner of Auburn and Dorchester.</p> <p>2. He made a presentation to the Cincinnati Public Schools to request a contract to purchase the former School of Creative and Performing Arts which is now vacant and located on Sycamore in the Pendleton/Over-the-Rhine area. This will house the school until a new building can be built at Auburn and Dorchester.</p> <p>3. This program will be funded by New Frontiers money. He will keep MACC board informed as information becomes available.</p>
<p><u>Filson Park and Pool Update</u></p>	<p>27. MACC was informed by the Cincinnati Recreation Commission that they could no longer operate three swimming pools in Mt. Auburn. Therefore, they were planning to close Filson pool and improve the swimming pool at the Mt. Auburn Community Center.</p> <p>28. Park Planning Group met with the Cincinnati Recreation Commission on 4-27-10 at God’s Bible School and College. MACC representatives attending the meeting were Freeman McNeal, (MACC President), Dr. Stanley Broadnax (MACC Board Chairman) and Jay Nashod (MACC Board Member)</p> <p>29. <u>SWIMMING POOL WILL CLOSE</u>-The CRC reported that the swimming pool at Filson would definitely be closed due to lack of resources to make needed repairs and staff the pool.</p> <p>30. <u>PRORITIES RECOMMENDED FOR MACC CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Remove pool, bring site back to grade, seed with limited landscaping ii. Walking track, bench seating and lighting iii. Gazebo or shelter iv. Multi-purpose open space for a variety of athletic activities v. Park landscaping vi. Play ground (already exists) vii. Drinking fountain viii. Concrete table for table games ix. Half court basket ball court