



ONE YEAR UPDATE

September 27, 2018

Our Task

To develop short and long-range strategies to address chronic housing and property maintenance violations and improve the condition of Savannah's neighborhoods.

Short Range Recommendations:

“Savannah Shines”

Targeting housing, public property, public safety, code enforcement & civic engagement efforts in one neighborhood

Long Range Recommendations:

Addressing Barriers Citywide

Strategies to improve the City's ability to address chronic housing and property maintenance issues

2017 Recap

- ▶ **May 11, 2017** - Program Proposal presented to City Council
- ▶ **Jul. 20, 2017** - First neighborhood selected
- ▶ **Aug. 11, 2017** - Kick-Off Event



What happened next?



Focus Area #1: Housing

- 1. Promote home ownership, development and repair**
- 2. Solicit local volunteer support to improve properties**
- 3. Provide financing opportunities for non- and for- profit developers**
- 4. Prioritize housing assistance to address:**
 - Property maintenance and housing code violations
 - Exterior repairs to homes that protect the property from the elements
 - First time home buyers in need of down payment, closing cost and gap financing

Housing Outcomes: Owner Occupied Home Improvements

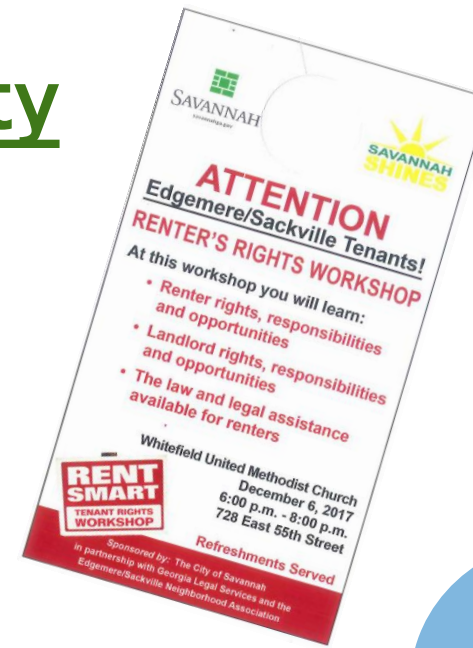
- ✓ Prepared/distributed 300+ marketing door hangers in Oct. 2017
- ✓ 48 inquiries were received
- ✓ 17 homeowners are currently participating
 - 12 houses work complete
 - 3 houses under repair
 - 1 homeowner getting quotes from contractors
 - 1 application being processed
- ✓ 5 volunteer organizations repaired 7 houses
 - Local: Armstrong students, Isle of Hope United Methodist Church
 - Visiting: River of Life Church, Mission Serve, World Changers



Armstrong students volunteer to repair East 53rd Street house

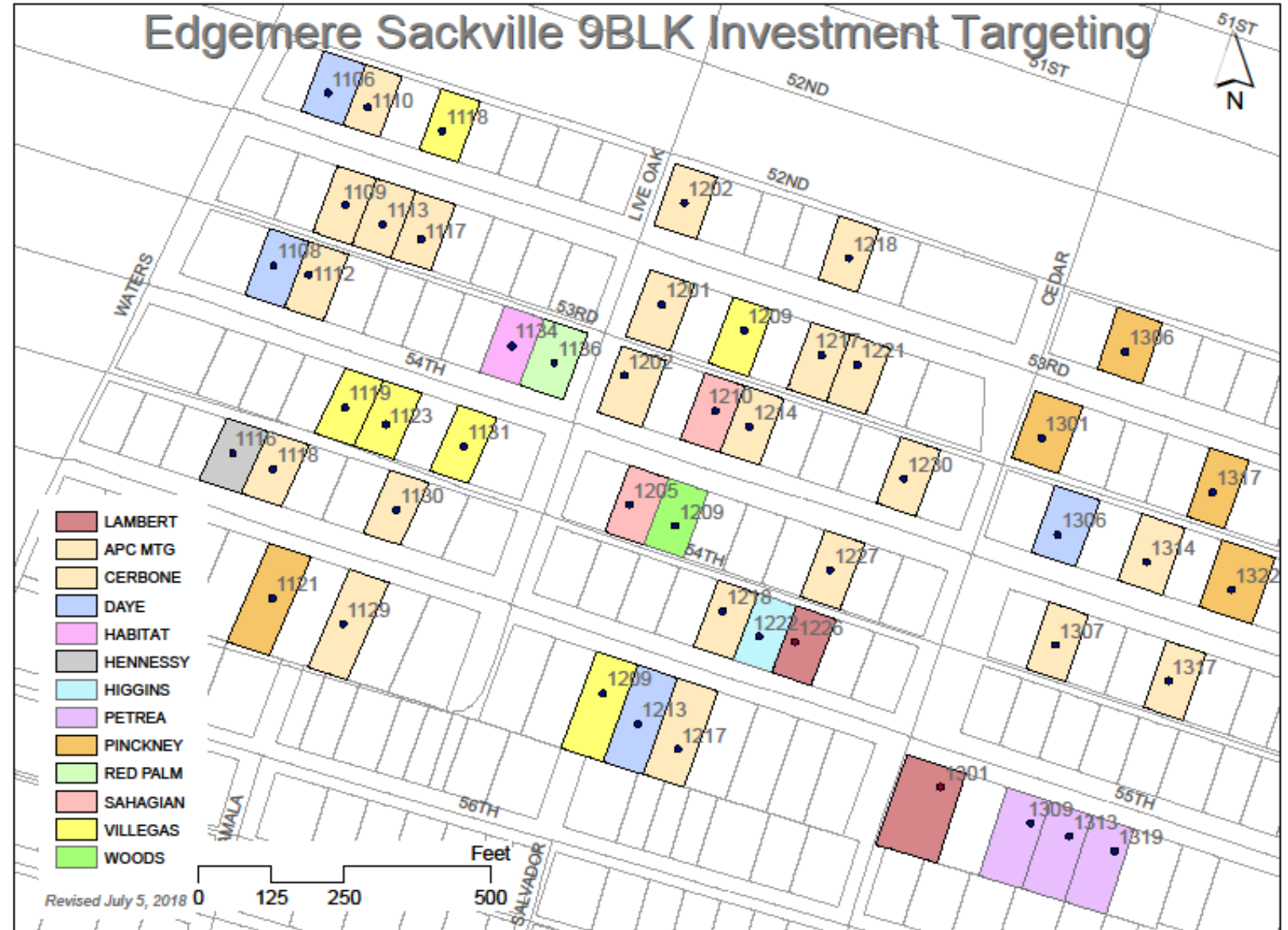
Housing Outcomes: Rental Property

- ✓ Held Tenant Rights and Responsibilities meeting in Dec. 2017
- ✓ Held landlords informational meeting in April 2018
- ✓ 15 landlords attended informational meeting
- ✓ Landlords were receptive to:
 - Building exterior improvements
 - Site improvements - paved driveways, tree trimming/removal, front yard sod/landscaping
 - Code Compliance improvements



Housing Outcomes: Rental Property

Interested landlords & their properties



Housing Outcomes: Private Property Home Purchase and Development

✓ 2 blighted duplexes purchased by Land Bank Authority

- 1 demolished in April 2018
- 1 scheduled for demolition in October 2018

✓ 3 houses being constructed

- 1 by private developer - complete
- 1 by Habitat for Humanity - complete
- 1 by Habitat for Humanity with YouthBuild - under construction

✓ 3 houses purchased by first time home buyers

- 2 existing houses for sale in neighborhood
- 1 house sold by Habitat for Humanity



Land Bank Authority acquires & demolishes blighted property, making way for Habitat for Humanity & YouthBuild Infill House



Habitat for Humanity builds & sells E 54th Street infill house to First Time Home Buyer

Housing Outcomes: Private Property

Rental Property

- ✓ 47 duplexes and 1 single family house (95 dwellings) being considered for improvements
 - 33 duplexes in various stages of inquiry and application
 - 13 duplexes and 1 single family house (27 dwellings) completed inspections, scope of work identified, and landlords getting quotes
 - *Includes inspections by the City's Housing & Neighborhood Services and Code Compliance departments*
 - 1 duplex (2 dwellings) completed
- ✓ 3 new infill rental houses developed in 1300 block of E 56th Street



Focus Area #2: Public Property Enhancements

1. Improve and enhance City-owned public property where/if feasible.
2. Develop a public enhancement project to serve as the “Signature Project” for the neighborhood.



Public Property: *Signature Project*

Phase One - New Neighborhood Park

- ✓ Three vacant lots acquired on 58th Street for expanded park
- ✓ Survey and conceptual plan completed
- ✓ Trees reviewed and designated to remain or be removed
- ✓ Playground equipment purchased and received
- ❑ Tree removal, fill dirt and sod planned for October 2018
- ❑ Playground installation planned for December 2018
- ❑ Walking trail planned for early 2019



Public Property: *Signature Project*

Phase Two: New Pedestrian Friendly Corridor (Delesseps to 52nd)

Concept

- Pedestrian friendly concept will connect new neighborhood park to Daffin Park
- New sidewalk, tree lawn & pedestrian scale lighting on the east side of street
- Enhanced pedestrian crossings along Cedar and at intersections at 53rd, 54th and 55th Streets

Update

- ✓ Multiple staff and consultant site visits completed
- ✓ Survey completed May 2018
- ✓ Design contract signed in July 2018
- ✓ Neighborhood design presentations in September & October 2018
- ❑ Design completion scheduled for December 2018
- ❑ Construction planned for early 2019



Tree lawns, sidewalks, stamped concrete cross walks, pedestrian scale lighting, curb and gutter will help narrow Cedar street width and help to slow traffic.

Public Property: Other Enhancements

- ✓ **Sanitation Recycle & Litter Route 4 coverage:**
2-3 times per month (Ash, Cedar, Live Oak & Waters)

- ❑ **Sidewalk installation in 1100 block of 53rd Street**
 - Tree removal and construction planned for Oct. 2018

- ❑ **Live Oak Street curb and gutter**
 - Survey completed; televised storm water lines Aug. 2018; design contract planned for Oct. 2018; tree removal planned for Nov. 2018; construction planned for early 2019 along with Cedar Street

- ❑ **Neighborhood monument sign**
 - Planned for Waters Avenue, between 55th and 56th Streets

- ❑ **Waters Avenue sidewalk improvements under consideration**



Curb, gutter and sidewalk improvements can help reduce soil erosion & runoff.



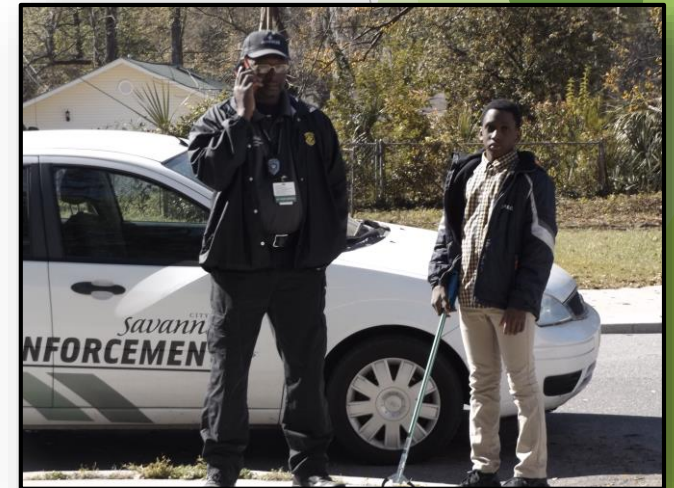
Sidewalks in the 1200 and 1300 blocks of E 53rd St. will be continued in the 1100 block.

Focus Area #3: Code Compliance

1. Develop a “Citizens Resource Guide” with information about cleanliness, code requirements, sanitation services, trash and bulk item collection schedules and fees.
2. Host a “Community Academy” to teach homeowners and renters how to maintain and beautify their property.
3. Work with the neighborhood to recognize good stewards, such as Yard of the Month, Block of the Month and Good Business Neighbor.
4. Partner with Housing, Savannah Police and other departments to offer training classes for renters and landlords on responsibilities, related City codes, and City resources to help address issues.

Code Compliance Outcomes

- ✓ Developed and distributed a Citizens Resource Guide to Common Code Compliance Issues
- ✓ Developed a Yard of the Month Incentive Program for execution by neighborhood associations
- ✓ Participated in the April 2018 Landlord Education Forum
- ✓ Initiated/closed 266 Compliance Cases
 - Over 100 cases fewer than the previous year
 - 24 Active Compliance Cases remain open



Focus Area #4: Expanding our Legal Toolbox



1. Provide a dedicated attorney from the Legal Office to work with code officers on strengthening cases and to present court cases on behalf of the City - removing officers from acting in the role of attorney.
2. Allow Code Compliance Officers to schedule hearing dates - eliminating delay in waiting for court to schedule hearings
3. Increase scheduling of court cases from 3 per month
4. Develop procedural guide “playbook” for handling different property cases
5. Identify and pursue first case under new eminent domain law
6. Update local ordinances to be more effective

Legal: Process Improvement Outcomes

- ✓ Legal Office has a dedicated attorney working with Code Officers - with a office in Code Compliance Department (*Drayton office building*)
- ✓ Increased number of court dates from 3 per month to weekly
- ✓ Court docket increased from one to two dockets (9am and 2pm) - Increasing case disposition from 20 to approximately 40 cases per week*
- ✓ Compliance Officers began scheduling their own cases
- ✓ First eminent domain case (Cumming Street) filed in September 2018
- ✓ Several updates to local ordinances are being proposed for City Council consideration



**Some cases may be returning/extended cases*

Focus Area #5: Public Safety

- ✓ Savannah Police (SPD) Officers regularly attended neighborhood meetings and area events.
- ✓ An SPD Juvenile Officer was recently hired to focus on programs involving juvenile concerns in the neighborhood.
- ✓ Savannah Fire Rescue recruitment team educated youth on career opportunities, offered blood pressure checks during the kick-off event, inspected fire hydrants and displayed emergency equipment and apparatus.
- ✓ Savannah Fire Rescue conducted 31 home safety fire inspections, installed 11 smoke detectors and replaced 9 smoke detector batteries.



Part One Crimes	Edgemere	Sackville
2014	75	36
2015	78	39
2016	48	20
2017	35	19
2018 (YTD)	24	18



Focus Area #6: Community Engagement

1. Implement community outreach and education activities to help strengthen neighborhood connections and neighborhood pride
2. Solicit community volunteers and other partnerships to assist with neighborhood improvement efforts
3. Offer training to meet the needs of neighborhood leaders and residents
4. Work with health, social service and employment agencies to participate in neighborhood based resource fairs for residents.

Community Engagement Outcomes

- ✓ Aug 2017 - Neighborhood Association Self-Assessment
- ✓ Oct 2017 - Two neighborhood cleanups & major Neighborhood Cleanup and Information Fair
- ✓ Dec 2017 - Renter Rights and Responsibilities Workshop
- ✓ Mar 2018 - Neighborhood Leadership Training on Organizational Development, neighborhood cleanup, WorkSource Coastal (WSC) distributed Adult Services information
- ✓ Apr 2018 - YouthBuild trainees distributed 250 door hangers to solicit program participants, Landlord and Vacant Property Owners Workshop



Organizational Leadership Training



Neighborhood Clean-Up & Information Fair



Community Engagement Outcomes

- ✓ **May 2018** - Great Savannah Clean Up, Philharmonic in the Streetz, and YouthBuild Savannah initiated new construction worksite (1116 E. 55th Street)
- ✓ **Jun 2018** - Slam Dunk the Junk Youth Litter Campaign (Keep Savannah Beautiful), Savannah Youth Ambassadors, Loop It Up Savannah, SCCPSS 21st Century Summer Program at Juliette Low Elem.
- ✓ **Jul 2018** - WSC distributed 150+ flyers door-to-door about youth “Earn & Learn” opportunities
- ✓ **Sanitation Service Requests:** Storm Debris-4; Evictions-2; Special Collections-8; Unscheduled BIP-18; Tires-5; Yard Waste Specials-26



Landlord and Vacant Property Owners Workshop



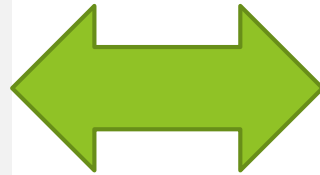
Slam Dunk the Junk



Philharmonic in the Streetz

Thank you for your continued support!

City Council
City Manager
City Attorney's Office
Community Services
Infrastructure &
Development
Municipal Operations
Savannah Fire
Savannah Police
Strategic Services



Residents
Neighborhood Association
Faith Community
Businesses
Volunteer Groups
Non-Profit Organizations
Property Owners
Youth