



NOTES

Door-to-Door Connection

Project: St Andrew's Plaza

Date: February 3, 2016

Location: St Andrew's Plaza and surrounding area

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Apartments and Homes

We knocked and rang a lot of doorbells but doors weren't opening. We adapted by taping the Community Design Charrette Flyers onto fences and mailboxes. There were people on the street with whom we spoke and some were receptive to coming to the charrette. We handed them Charrette flyers and Reconnect flyers.

Convenience Store and Donut Shop

- The employee at the Convenience Store had no opinion about St Andrew's Plaza. He will give the flyer to the store owner.
- The woman who runs the donut shop allowed us to post the Charrette flyer and the Re-Connect flyer on her shop window. She didn't have time to talk with us.

Crossing San Pablo Avenue

Even though there are two crosswalks near the plaza, few motorists slow to allow pedestrians to cross. We witnessed angry pedestrians shouting at drivers and an elderly woman with a walker required assistance to cross the street safely. The unsafe crossing was a subject of discussion throughout our visit.

St. Mary's Center Preschool

We spoke with the school's Director, Quinetta Lewis:

- Will be glad to see the plaza closed
- Concern that the users of the plaza will hang out near the preschool door after the plaza is closed
- She would appreciate more of a police presence after the closure to ensure the activity doesn't migrate to the fronts of other buildings.
- Preschool has its own garden and outdoor space

St. Mary's Senior Center

The Program Coordinator, Janny Castillo invited us to listen to seniors' ideas for the plaza during a Senior Advocates for Hope and Justice meeting which we attended. The center will post a meeting flyer.

- The Center's Executive Director, Carol Johnson, would like to see a community building constructed on the site. She'd like to see the existing "strip mall" on 32nd street put to better use.
- Members of the group supported the idea of a building for a variety of potential uses:
 - Library with Meditation Garden
 - Health Clinic-24 hours

- Computer Lab
- Event Space
- Spoken Word Event Space
- Exercise Space for Seniors
- Police Substation – One person came up with this idea and some others did not agree.
- Not a liquor store
- Members of the group were concerned about safety crossing the street and expressed their desire for a traffic signal.
- Several group members agreed they will be glad when the plaza is closed.
- Some were concerned that the fence to close the plaza will be opened with bolt cutters.
- One member was concerned that art in the plaza would be destroyed with graffiti and blight.
- The security guard at the Center wanted the plaza to be a space for children and seniors.

Sylvester Rutledge Manor

We spoke with an employee, Ofelia:

- Will post the meeting flyer
- Concern that the users of the plaza will hang out in front of the senior community after the plaza is closed and requests assistance to mitigate
- Uninvited people get into the building and turn on the stove in the kitchen for heat.
- She would appreciate more of a police presence.
- The senior community has its own garden and outdoor space
- She is concerned about speeding and pedestrian safety on San Pablo Avenue.

St Andrew's Plaza

We went into the plaza to hand out flyers for the Reconnect Event:

- We posted flyers for the event in the plaza.
- Many people were interested in the event and accepted flyers.
- One senior gentleman, Harry Thomas, described how his landlord gave him \$4,000 to move out of his \$590/month apartment. He is now living in a residential motel. He will attend the Reconnect Event because he is seeking better housing.