NEIGHBORS BUILDING *Neighborhoods*
CREATING NEIGHBORHOODS OF CHOICE

Establishing Neighborhood Standards

Neighborhood standards are driven by community values, which first need to be defined. A community engagement process is recommended if you are to be effective. To make the optimal impact on your community, neighborhood standards should exceed the basic or minimum environmental and building maintenance codes.

You will approach this issue like you would most projects in your neighborhood.

- Seek volunteers consisting of a core group of interested residents to lead the effort. Make sure the group is diverse and there is fair representation based on neighborhood demographics and geography.

- The role of the volunteers will be to develop the framework for a community workshop(s) where a facilitated discussion on defining community values takes place. Depending on how diverse your community may be, several sessions may be needed before consensus is achieved. The key to success is to remain open-minded, patient and kind.

- Communicate the results of each session with the community at large. Use newsletters, websites, social media, mailings, meeting agendas and other methods for getting input, buy-in and ownership of as many residents as possible. Chances are that if they feel part of the planning process, they will participate in the implementation process.

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Bureau of Community Enrichment