

Fountain Avenue Neighborhood Public Meeting #2

October 27, 2005

6:00 PM

Margaret Hank Church

Meeting Summary

At the meeting, we reviewed the results of the first meeting and illustrated the fact that the neighborhood predominately wanted code enforcement and police enforcement. Then Joel Scarbrough, Chief Building Inspector gave a short presentation of where he felt like we were heading with the plan as far as Code Enforcement. Some ideas included higher than normal code standards, possible design review standards (similar, but not as involved as Lower Town), and comprehensive inspections. Basically every house will be inspected inside and out. Next, Randy Bratton, Chief of Police went over the crime statistics and passed out updated stats from the month of September and the past year. These stats showed a decrease in the number of arrests in the area attributed to increased police presence. There are now two officers dedicated to the Fountain Avenue Project area (approximately 6-8 weeks now) and they are committed to the neighborhood. The police requested details when calling the department about an incident (as much as possible without endangering yourselves). Also, a neighborhood section of the crime oriented website has been set up at citizenobserver.com. If there is enough interest, a neighborhood watch can be set up as well (and possibly a neighborhood association). After these presentations a question and answer dialog took place between city staff and the public. The dominant theme was concern over the inspections, standards, and how that will affect low income property owners. The city's basic answer was that everyone will be made to fix up their house to the code, enhanced or not. If the city is successful in applying for housing grants, then limited funds may be made available to qualifying low to moderate income families. Additionally, the churches pledged to help out in some yet to be determined fashion.