



Fountain Avenue Neighborhood

Purpose

The purpose of the public meeting was to determine the strengths and weaknesses of Fountain Avenue and to receive direction from the residents on what they think could be done to make Fountain Avenue a better place to live and work. Specifically the Representatives of the City asked three questions:

1. What are the positive aspects of Fountain Avenue?
2. What are the negative aspects of Fountain Avenue?
3. What would make Fountain Avenue a better place to live and work?

Methodology

The City of Paducah Planning Department Staff conducted two public information-gathering sessions. The first meeting was on Thursday, August 11, 2005; the second was on Thursday, August 25, 2005.

Approximately 65 people were present at the meeting and 35 at the second meeting for a total of 100 persons. The participants were encouraged to generate as many ideas as possible in response to the aforementioned questions. All ideas, regardless of their apparent validity were written down on a flip chart.

After the Brainstorming session the participants were asked to rank the items from the flip charts on index cards. There were 23 respondents that turned in their rankings from the first meeting, and 22 from the second meeting for a total of 45 respondents. These tabulated rankings are found in the charts.



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Responses to Questions

<u>1. Positive Aspects?</u>	<u># Mentioned</u>
* Centrally Located/Accessible	22
* Beauty/Size of Existing Houses/Pleasing & Welcoming Appearance	17
* Circle Park	12
* Old Churches (including people)	12
* Friendly/Quality of People	10
* History	9
* Trees	8
* Sidewalks	8
* Affordable Housing Stock	8
* Property Value Potential	5
* City Services (Refuse/Police/Fire)	5
* Light Traffic	4
* Different/Unique	4
* Quiet Neighborhood	3
* Current Restoration Projects	3
* McNabb School	2
* Access To City Officials	2
* Innovative City Programs	1
* Boulevards	1

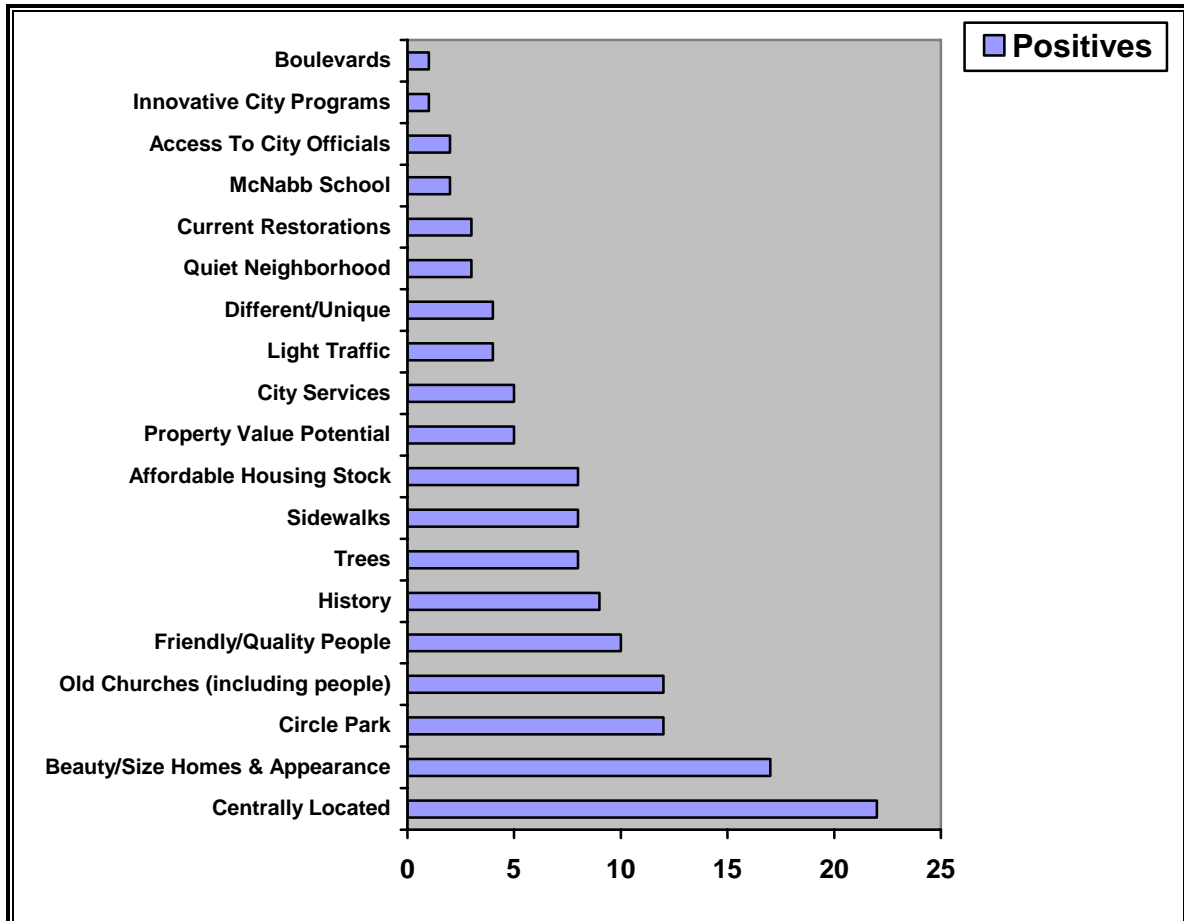
Additional Positive Comments Found On Note Cards (Not On Flip Charts)

- Racially integrated
- Wide streets
- Neighborhood is clean
- No drug activity
- Currently have good lighting
- Currently have new sidewalks
- Houses are nice and well kept
- Thanks for keeping the yard clean at the statue on 14th & Park Avenue



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Being centrally located, the beauty and appearance of the neighborhood, the presence of Circle (Lang) Park, the historic churches, and the people are the top five mentioned positives of living in Fountain Avenue.



Series #'s represent the frequency of mention of the items listed.

2. Negative Aspects?

Mentioned

* Property Maintenance Issues (lawns, homes, businesses)	40
* Crime/Drugs (crack)	24
* Lack of Infrastructure Maintenance by City (roads, alleys)	18
* Lack of Police Patrol	14
* Low Maintenance Rentals	12



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* Litter	12
* Kids (youth) Walking Late at Night (intimidating) Curfew Enforcement	9
* Abandoned Homes	8
* Dark Streets/Safety	7
* High Rental Rate	5
* Loud music from cars	5
* Abandoned Cars	4
* Gangs	3
* Taxi Traffic	2
* Traffic Disobedience (stop signs)	2
* Dogs	1

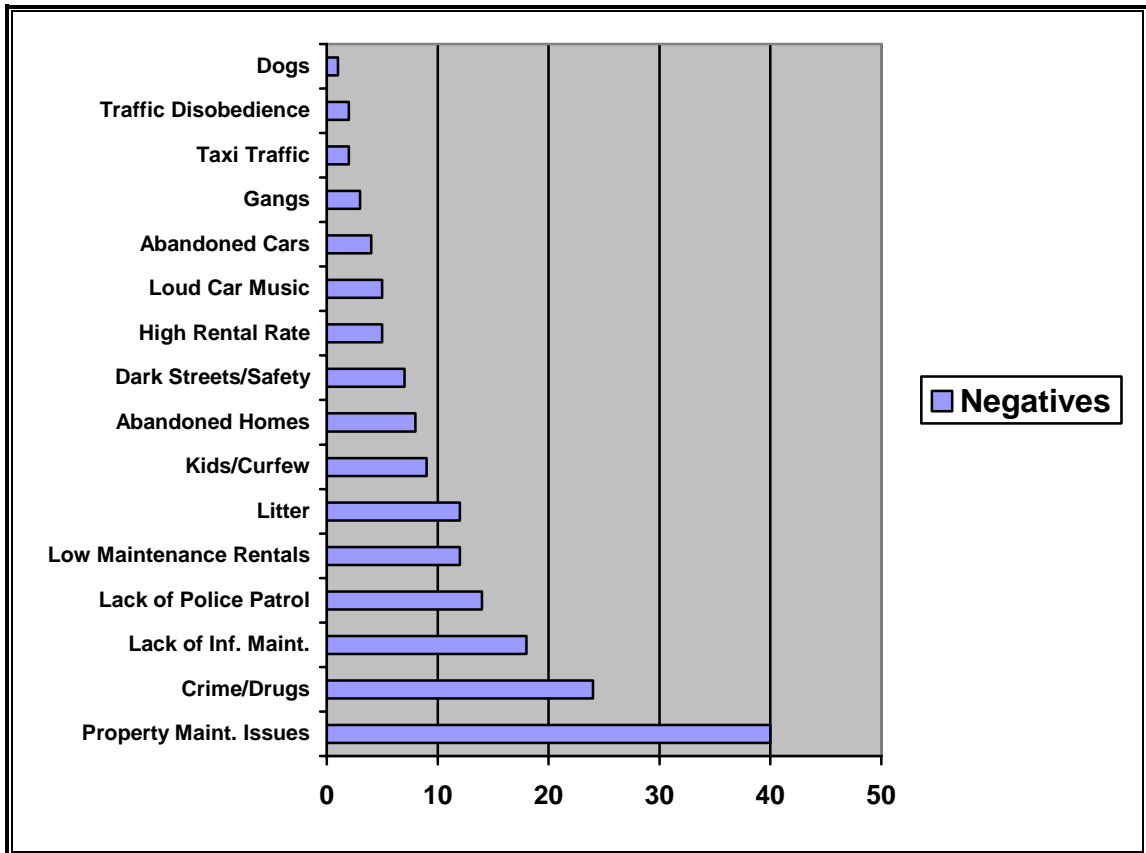
Additional Comments Found On Note Cards (Not On Flip Charts)

- City needs to care
- Illegal double-parking
- Agencies funded by the Feds should help owner-occupied homes
- Loud music by cars
- More city services
- Lack of parental involvement
- Reputation is overblown (FA is not that bad)
- Judgmental old people who do not really get to know their neighbors
- Outbuildings and garages turned into living space without permits
- Drug dealers deal from their front porch and people are afraid to call the law on them
- The streets are not being cleaned regularly



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Property maintenance issues, drug and crime problems, lack of infrastructure maintenance by the City, lack of police presence, & low maintenance rental properties are the top five negative aspects of Fountain Avenue.



Series #'s represent the frequency of mention of the items listed.

<u>What Would Make Fountain Ave. A Better Place To Live?</u>	<u># Mentioned</u>
* Use Rental License Ordinance/Enforcement of Codes	14
* Increase Police Patrol	12
* Neighborhood Watch/Neighborhood Association	9
* Kid/Youth Programs (or designated areas)	9
* Trash Clean up	5



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* Home Businesses/Retail Stores (grocery, needs)	4
* Infrastructure Investment/Maintenance (sidewalks, streets, alleys)	4
* Citizen Involvement/Helping Neighbors	4
* Street Lights	3
* Support For Persons Unable To Do Certain Tasks For Themselves	2
* Financial Assistance for Home Repair	2
* Create A Neighborhood Identity	2
* Getting Together	1
* Park Improvements (garden)	1
* Neighborhood Gardens	1
* Improve Perception/Attitude Towards Neighborhood	1
* Lights in back yard	1
* More yard fences	1

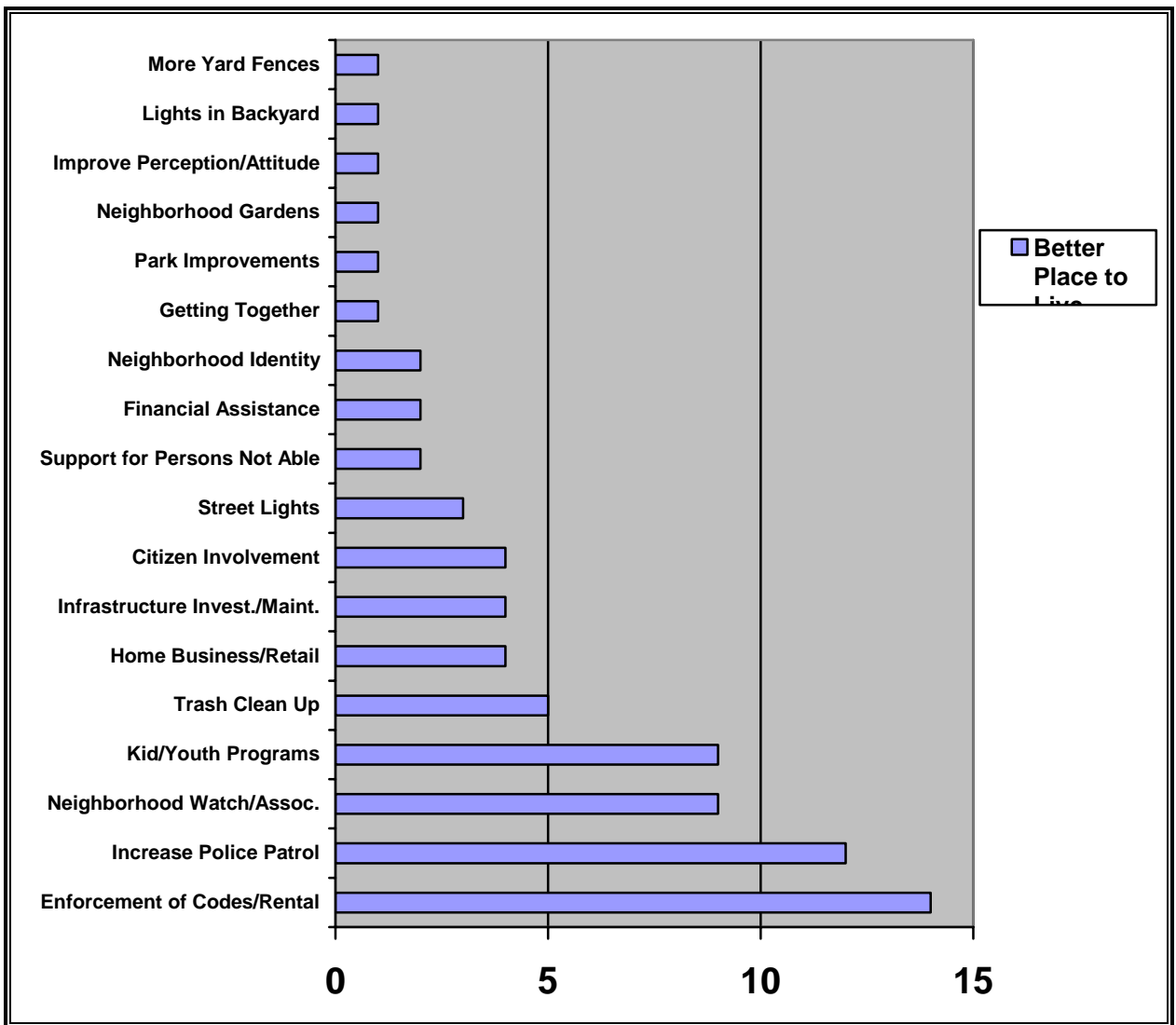
Additional Comments Found On Note Cards (Not On Flip Charts)

- Landscape Boulevards
- City needs to care
- Enforce curfews
- Private investment
- Better Marketing
- No convenience stores or gas stations
- Trash/Community cleanup day
- Discourage “Habitat Houses”, mobile homes, trailers
- Too much emphasis on self help groups instead of neighborhood redevelopment
- Move Tilghman statue to Jefferson and lower the elevation of the park
- A good place for pancakes
- Use the churches as a hub to give out information
- Have a Mother’s Day Out
- Retrofit condemned structures throughout the city and county
- Add police substations where persons can hand in drugs and guns with no questions asked
- We are just outside of the boundary area, why are we not included in the project area?
- Stop drug deals on the corner of Fountain Avenue & Harrison Street
- Keep garbage cans in the rear alley and not in the front yards
- Tear down all the shotgun houses
- How do we eliminate or control undesirable business (sexually oriented) in the city.



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Enforcement of the property codes (building, property maintenance, and rental license), increased police patrols, the need for a neighborhood association / watch, kid/youth programs, and needing a trash clean up day were the top five choices for making Fountain Avenue a Better Place to Live.



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