



General Plan Community Meeting Summary Ward 4

**Carr Intermediate
2120 West Edinger Avenue
Wednesday, March 30, 2016
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

PARTICIPANTS

A General Plan community meeting was held on March 30th 2016 as part of an early outreach effort to help inform the community within Council Ward 4 about the upcoming General Plan update and to identify ways the community perceives the City of Santa Ana today and in the future. A total of 30 participants were in attendance including residents, local state holders, and neighborhood association leaders. Participants were greeted by staff who presented a sign-in sheet and a citywide map where participants were asked to place a colored dot on the map representing their respective residence or place of business. Individuals were also provided a copy of an "important topics" survey to complete in preparation for the workshop discussions.

MEETING FORMAT

Following a brief video introduction to the basic elements of the General Plan and its role in setting the VISION for the future, attendees participated in a small group discussions related to two items of conversation:

- 1) What are three topics are the most important to you in Santa Ana?
- 2) Tell us more about each of these topics.

Individual group discussions included a staff facilitator and scribe who transferred ideas onto a flip chart. All members were asked to participate in the smaller discussions. One participant at each table was later selected to represent the group as part of the next exercise which involved reporting out to the larger audience. Through a series of small presentations, each group leader reported out their findings based on the smaller discussions.

The following pages are a transcript of these group discussions and written comments submitted separately from group discussions.



MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

GROUP 1:

- **Business & Economic Development** - Push cart vendors, Disproportion in Downtown, Santa Ana doesn't market itself, Code-enforcement being cut first, Elected officials are out of touch and need to reconnect with citizens they are supposed to represent, Some community members are invested
- **Community Facilities & Programs** - Thornton Park walkable and dog friendly, Jerome Park and Senior Center, City workers are responsive for graffiti hotline, Code-enforcement and VIP program 1st or 2nd reporting, Lack of follow-up from code-enforcement for parking issues, Illegal garage sales and signs left on poles
- **Community Safety** - Gang infestation through our neighborhoods, Homeless in front of library begging
- **Housing & Neighborhoods** - All the neighbors watch out for one another, Single family residence, Police force and Commander Gominski friendliness, Homeowners Association, Quiet and safe as compared to other parts of the City, Pride of ownership, We love nextdoor.com, Real estate value going up, Illegal 2nd units, Get rid of granny flats, Lack of participation from neighbors and involvement of smaller neighborhoods, City proposal for granny flats increases crime, Turned into illegal medical marijuana dispensaries, Turned into nude clubs, Too big and lack of participation from Council members, Homeless at Civic Center, High rents, Awesome associations and take it to the next level
- **Human Service & Social Justice** - No follow-up from City to residence regarding homeless
- **Mobility** - Concerned about the re-pavement of sections in our neighborhood and sidewalks throughout the City, Safety of sidewalks, Repairs, Overflow parking from condominiums being over crowded, Domino effect from permit parking too restrictive to the residence, Lack of code-enforcement and garages being used for storage and parking on street
- **Visual Character & Design** - Poor street tree choices, Front yards are pigsties, Cell towers need to be aesthetically pleasing

GROUP 2:

- **Arts & Culture** - Educational and cultural opportunities, Festivals, Strong cultural presence
- **Business & Economic Development** - Focus outside Downtown, Giving back to community



- **Community Facilities & Programs** - Jerome Park negative activity, Empty lots donate as community garden or safe space, Lack of open space, Additional park opportunities, Animal services and education for partnership opportunities, Additional police
- **Community Safety** - Issues with lighting dark areas, Vandalism and graffiti by gangs, Motels, Unsafe cars racing, Homeless, Children walk and bike on riverbeds and they see drug use and verbal threats, Gun violence, Flooding, Crime and shootings
- **Health & Sustainability** - Access to healthy food options, Solutions such as grocery outlet with food access, education, affordable options, Policy to limit unhealthy big chain food
- **Housing & Neighborhoods** - Diverse neighborhoods, Community involved and participates, Expensive housing results in overcrowding, Homeless issue citywide at exits off freeways, 5 Freeway on 17th Street, Overcrowding, Illegal additions and garage conversions result in parking impacts, Riverbed near Saddleback, Gentrification impacts increase residential and commercial rents, Lack of rent control, House maintenance issues, Code-enforcement and use online app
- **Human Service & Social Justice** - Better enforcement with regards to homeless, Gang activity results in racial profiling, Trust building with Police Department
- **Mobility** - Safety on the street and comfortable in community, Walkability and nearby stores, Traffic safety issues east of Segerstrom Avenue and Bristol Street, Bike lanes at Bishop and Willits, Sidewalk maintenance, Street right-of-way width results in unsafe conditions for disabled, Maintenance in general regarding streets, Pedestrian and bike safety, Potential for becoming most bike friendly city
- **Visual Character & Design** - History, Small town feel, Diversity
- **Youth Development** - Access to youth programs, Youth enrichment, Quality of education in Santa Ana schools always ranked lower, Strong youth involvement

GROUP 3:

- **Arts & Culture** - Celebrations are important for community engagement and cultural education on holidays, Diversity in people culturally
- **Business & Economic Development** - Businesses closing, No employment opportunities for youth, Small businesses
- **Community Facilities & Programs** - No public library on south side community, Programs for homeless like shelters and rehab centers, Schools, Programs, Science in technology improvement and materials, Street and tree maintenance
- **Community Safety**-- Neighborhood safety issues gang members and crimes, Proposition 47, People hanging out in neighborhood, Insecurity
- **Health & Sustainability** - Public health and overall need for a clean environment to live in



- **Housing & Neighborhoods** - Active neighborhood association to stay informed, Proximity to open space, parks, churches and schools, Sense of community, Convenient and centrally located to stores and small businesses, Senior residents united through neighborhood watch and Community Oriented Police (COP) programs with Police Department involvement, Too much homeless invading public library and unsafe for women and kids, Neighborhood outreach, Amount of people living in one house, Apartment buildings decaying and degrading with slumlords, Problem heaters and hot water decreasing quality of life, Housing issue of affordability and availability, Neighborhood Associations that keep people informed and involved
- **Human Service & Social Justice** - Uneven distribution of public resources, All resources in Downtown, Periodic inspections are needed to force improvements for apartment livability, Code enforcement issues and violations and neighborhood retaliation
- **Mobility** - Traffic too much and at peak hour, Accidents resulting of disobeying of traffic laws, Increased traffic with new projects, Not enough patrol and surveillance for safety, Kids don't pay attention to traffic and get hit, No parking on public streets, Mixed activities, Parking on corners illegally, Trash cans and chairs used to save parking spots in neighborhoods, Overcrowding related to parking issues and parking permits, Close proximity to everything, Bike trails and lanes
- **Youth Development** - Not enough programs for youth, Recreational centers to keep kids out of trouble, Kids are going to other cities for activities and programs like Mile Square Park in Fountain Valley and Irvine, Financial burden and lack of money from parents to use for kids to participate in activities, Need funding for materials, programs sports and jobs

GROUP 4: *(translated from Spanish)*

- **Arts & Culture** - I like Santa Ana because of the people, culture, churches, parks, and public transportation, It's pretty, Cultural events
- **Business & Economic Development** - Employers should be more effective in maintenance with more inspections and fines
- **Community Facilities & Programs** - Schools near Edinger Avenue, Clean commercial centers more with gardens and parking spaces, Maintenance and cleanliness of food trucks, Food trucks leave trash all over neighborhoods on curbs and yards
- **Community Safety** – Shootings in Townsend Avenue area, Innocent people killed, Drugs and smoking marijuana, Cars burning out and street racing, City is not utilizing Police well, Police response time is too long, Traffic light at Segerstrom Avenue and Spruce Street, Accidents at Raitt Street and McFadden Avenue turning left and right (10 to 15 accidents yearly), More street lighting at Rene Drive and Borchard Avenue, More



community meetings, Trash left behind after City repairs at Raitt Street & Wisteria Place, Scared to call Police and leave personal information

- **Housing & Neighborhoods** - Like meetings within the neighborhood, We know the neighbors, Meetings are held, Communication between neighbors and it's calm, Homeless numbers are increasing, More unity and participation among neighbors
- **Mobility** - Cost for parking permit is excessive, Free parking permits to residents, Parking issues, Street sweeping doesn't do anything or clean, Traffic light synchronization, A lot of traffic at Greenville Avenue and St. Andrew Street, Cars don't respect pedestrians at Shelton Avenue and Center Street or Diamond School
- **Visual Character & Design** - Trim trees, People removing trash bins at bus stops and trash being left on the ground and curb, Lots of trash thrown on lawns including couches, Tree roots are going through sidewalks, Water doesn't drain properly and stays stuck on streets, Plant more trees on main streets, Graffiti from gangs
- **Youth Development** - More police patrolling the schools, Protect youth

ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

- **Business & Economic Development** - Expanding and seeking to grow, Too many liquor stores on every corner
- **Community Facilities & Programs** - Thornton Park has abundance of "nature" and open space, 4th Street or street fairs, No library in south Santa Ana, Public library in north Santa Ana overrun by homeless
- **Community Safety** - I can sit outside with my front door open without fear, Safety in general, Too many people living in certain areas, Not enough Police, Recently an influx of people just released from jail and more crimes being committed, Too many dark areas, When it rains streets are easily flooded, Number of hit and run accidents
- **Health & Sustainability** - Lack of access to healthy food sources, Obesity rates
- **Housing & Neighborhoods** - United community, Neighborhood associations, Inadequate and too expensive housing, Overcrowding
- **Mobility** - Lack of bike lanes and safe infrastructure, People from other streets parking where they don't live

WARD MAP COMMENTS

- 1st Street by the Santa Ana River parking, safety, and traffic issues
- Santa Ana riverbed and Raitt Street by Jerome Park homeless all along river bed, drug problems
- Bishop Street and Willits Street bike lanes
- McFadden Intermediate and Jefferson Elementary, Gang infestation in Thornton Park (we used to love it)



- Jerome and Thornton Park keep and maintain, Community loves the open space, Jerome Park has some negative activities that need to be removed
- South Section of Santa Ana needs a library
- Raitt Street by Carr Intermediate needs more parking
- Segerstrom Avenue by Saddleback High safety issue with cars and traffic