

A VISION FOR ENSLEY – BIRMINGHAM’S URBAN MECCA

Birmingham View is spearheading a community roundtable to bring together all citizens and stakeholders who are interested in turning the vision for a revitalized Ensley Community into reality:

- ❖ Neighborhood leaders
- ❖ Business owners / Merchants
- ❖ Schools (superintendent, educators, parents and students from public and private schools)
- ❖ Public health officials (hospitals and healthcare providers)
- ❖ Housing development officials
- ❖ Churches and religious organizations
- ❖ Police/ Law enforcement / Public safety
- ❖ Property owners / Landlords
- ❖ Non-profit service agencies and community development foundations
- ❖ Fraternal organizations
- ❖ Environmental agencies
- ❖ Arts and Cultural groups
- ❖ Urban Planners
- ❖ Elected Officials / Policymakers

Everybody has a piece of the puzzle that is part of the solution to the problems facing Ensley. It’s only when everyone comes together and lays their piece on the table that we can begin the hard, but rewarding work of solving the problems.

All sorts of plans have been developed for Ensley. There is a 1987 plan to develop the Ensley Works Industrial Park, a 1988 community redevelopment plan for Tuxedo Junction, a 1978 revitalization program plan for Ensley, a 1979 study to revitalize downtown Ensley. There are also newer studies also underway. There is no need to re-invent any wheels. Ensley already has studies and plans. What it needs are people with the energy and vision to carry out the best details from those plans.

In the second quarter of 2010, Birmingham View will convene a community meeting (tentatively called, “The Birmingham View Community Roundtable: A Vision for Ensley”). Our mission is to bring all the stakeholders and various community organizations to the table for dialogue about redeveloping Ensley. Our goal is to shine a spotlight on the area’s potential and energize an indigenous group of community leaders who can help implement whatever strategic objectives come out of the discussions.

We believe that this initial meeting (and any subsequent meetings) will provide the spark that ignites a new wave of visioning – strategic planning and action – that empowers the people of Ensley to turn their community into a modern example of Urban Revitalization for Birmingham and beyond.

Birmingham View will record and televise this meeting (and potential future meetings) on Birmingham View Television and our Online Magazine so citizens can hear and see the discussions and ideas that come forth for Ensley.

Anyone who wants to be part of the discussion and play a vital role in this effort are invited to call or email me with your ideas and suggestions. We will announce the dates and times by First Qtr 2010.

Thanks!

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