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Whose Neighborhood Is It Anyway?

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Whose Neighborhood is it Anyway?
Presenters

**TiRease Holmes M.A.**
Director of Off-Campus & Commuter Communities, Community Building Team Chairperson

**Kate Ward-Gaus MS Ed**
Director, Alcohol & Other Drug Education Center

**Other Members of the Community Building Team**
Community Building Team

What we do:
• Explore, develop, recommend

How we do it:
• Through the appropriate combinations of direct action and stimulating the actions of others in the division and the University implements means

Why we do it:
• So that the neighbors of our adjoining community and the University can create an ever better environment in which to live, work, and study.
Who is represented on CBT?

- **CBT consist of:**
  - 3 Faculty Members
  - 6 Student Members
  - 10 Staff members (Security, Community Development, Community Relations, Alcohol & Other Drugs, and University Ministry office represented)
  - 10 Community Members (Community Residents, Landlords, Community Leaders and local business representatives)

- **Bi-weekly Meetings**
  - Alternating times 1pm and 6pm
The number of students living in the nearby off-campus community has risen dramatically in the last two decades (particularly the last decade). What had once been a community of single-family, middle-class, multi-aged households, with a preponderance of homeowners is now a community with a high percentage of college-age renters with life style and socioeconomic differences from their neighbors. This café is an opportunity for participants to better understand these dynamics and identify potential solutions to the challenges presented.
Objectives

• Description of the changing neighborhood
• Explanation of the challenges the changes have created for the University, students, homeowners, landlords, businesses and policing efforts
• Explanation of the efforts to date that address the challenges
• Discussion of what more could be done?
Increase in the number of students living in the off-campus community over the past 10 years

- 7 properties to close to 98 (average increase of 5-10 per year)
- 35 students to nearly 400 students
- Increase in on-campus housing costs - lower cost of off-campus housing = more students moving off-campus
- On-campus policies (i.e. “zero tolerance for underage drinkers”), “rent” parties (i.e. $5 for a red cup) and limited commercial venues to socialize contribute to a culture of off-campus parties attracting on-campus residential students
Where Students Live Off Campus

Map Key:
- On Campus Student Housing
- Connelly Library
- Hayman Center
- Blue & Gold Dining Hall
- Off Campus Housing
- Off Campus Student Housing
Trends in Housing

Off-Campus Living

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># of Students</th>
<th># of Houses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Reason</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81.2%</td>
<td>It is more affordable than on-campus housing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.3%</td>
<td>Dislike living in residence halls</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47.8%</td>
<td>Not subject to on-campus housing policies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40.6%</td>
<td>Off-campus housing quality is better</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Average monthly cost comparison of on-campus and off-campus rent
Where do first year students drink alcohol

*Responses to first year students 4 to 6 week follow-up, “in the past 2 weeks, when you consumed alcohol, where did you consume?”*
Slice of changes on one block

Lambert St. Year of Purchase
Entire Block
Student Identified Houses purchased by year

Houses Bought

-2

Video Clip
The Challenges for Neighbors

- Neighborhood Associations
  (homeowners vs landlords involvement in neighborhood)
- Quality of Life issues (parking, trash, noise, long-term residents vs. transient neighbors)
- 35th District resources
Timeline of Initiatives to address student behavior in off-campus community

- **1987** – EDGAR Act Part 86 - DFSCA
- **1990’s** - Rented Off-Campus Apartment Complexes to meet demands for housing while building more dorm space.
- **1993** – Biggest problems were 545 Wister and the 1800 and 1900 blocks of Olney (Greek)
- **2000** – Creation of Off-Campus Student Relations and Services position (10 hrs per week)
- **2002** – Dedication of the Bro. Augustine Center on Uber Street
- **2005**- Allied Barton Bike patrol engaged
- **2006** - Community Building Team (CBT) established
- **2006-2007** - Position elevated to Director level; 2nd coordinator position created
- **2006-2007** – Developed and initiated House Risk Assessment as a recourse for student houses sanctioned for alcohol violations
- **2007**- Inclusion of specific expectations of student behavior in off-campus community in SGRRR
- **2010**- Security Service Zone map and Priorities established
- **2010-2011** - PLCB funds priority activities of CBT
- **Present** – continuation of activities
2010-2011 PLCB Grant

• Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB) annually grants awards to Colleges, Universities, Community Groups and Law Enforcement for efforts to address underage & dangerous drinking.

• Our goals:
  – Reduce underage and dangerous drinking by La Salle students who live and/or drink in the Off-Campus Community
  – Improve relationships between neighbors and La Salle students in the off-campus community and by extension increase positive perceptions about La Salle University as a neighbor.
Activities of the 2010-2011 PLCB grant

1. Academic Collaboration (COM 407 PR Capstone & SW Community SW)

2. Increase self-use of eCHUG (an online alcohol screening and feedback tool) by off-campus students

3. Community Input Forums

4. Off-Campus Living Brochure

5. Block Clean-Ups
Continuing Efforts to Date

Raise Student Awareness:

• Information included in Day ONE presentations to Parents
• First Year Student Experience classes
• Service Learning Courses (LGU)*
• Safety Excursions, Monthly Walk Thru, AODEC magnets
• Quarterly Newsletter for Community
• Off-Campus Housing Consultation & Info Sessions
• “How to Be a Good Neighbor” booklet disseminated
• Dean Moore’s Letter to La Salle Community (including parents) about off-campus behavior
Continuing Efforts to Date

Increase Positive Neighbor/Student Interaction:

• 4 + Block Cleanings (Trash Bashes) after “partying” nights
• Annual MLK Interfaith Service
• Annual Easter Food Drive collection for area churches
• Neighborhood Nutrition Project and other LGU courses
• Community Health Fair
• Service groups (Neighbor to Neighbor, Tutoring, PAL, St. Raymonds, Pheed Philly at St. Vincent’s, LOCK, etc)
Discussion Prompts

• Does the information presented support or conflict with your perception of the neighborhood and the impact of student behavior?
• Are there any factors not mentioned that you think contribute to the dynamic between students and neighbors?
• Who do you think is responsible for addressing the issues presented?
• What other initiatives do you think could be implemented to address the neighborhood dynamics identified?
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