

Shaw Conversations
Notes for Uniting/Strengthening Community
11/11/14 (from 11/1/14 session #3)

I - Getting to Know One's Neighbors

- Meet 2 neighbors you don't know
- National Night Out & block parties
- Strengthen Block Units/Captains system
- Saying "hi" to neighbors; finding common ground
- Only solution Relationships – individual friendships
- Building multicultural & racial relationships
- Conversations organized by African American residents of Shaw
- Block Meetings in people's homes
- Get to know your neighbors' children
- Notice your neighbors' needs, e.g., shoveling snow & lawn mowing
- Focus group discussions among: home owners, renters & landlords
- Neighborhood-wide Potluck, for example, at Thanksgiving

II - Engaging Youth/Young Adults in the Neighborhood

- Conversations with youth, both white and black
- Find youth leaders and support/help them
- Approach young people as individuals
- Sponsor neighborhood, sport league/s
- Informal, mentorship programs
- Restore basketball court/s and skating in Shaw
- Church & summer teen programs
- Social media platform by/for youth
- Community center: 39th Street or former Sherman School
- Employment training & opportunities for youth

III - Working with Neighborhood Police

- Conversations with police department
- Holding police officers accountable
- Civilian Review Board
- NOM: Citizens' Patrol, Court Watch & Victim Support
- Police officers on foot/bikes getting to know people more
- Invite police to block meetings
- Ambassador from within community to partner with probation officers
- Examine police racial perceptions and what training they're receiving

IV - Developing Long-range Community Plan

- To keep the neighborhood "diverse:" race/renters/income
- We need "top-down" AND "bottom up" solutions to support & perpetuate a solution
- What services do we have for the elderly, disabled persons... etc.
- Outreach by SNIA: review subjects & format of meetings
- Distribute frequent newsletters from SNIA
- Promote the retention of affordable housing in Shaw
- Deliberate, extensive long-term outreach: a marathon, not a sprint

V - Miscellaneous

- Design Parent support programs
- Restore Sherman as a neighborhood public school
- Develop a Neighborhood house
- Support House Bill 40 (to study merits of slavery reparations)
- Investigate Compassionate St. Louis model of community building