

La Mesa Neighborhood - Community concerns and recommendations

Strengths:

Community: Churches, community gardens, leaders work with community, political support, sense of neighborhood, small businesses, multi-cultural, residents, affordable, stability, La Mesa Community Improvement Association, East Central Ministries, open to immigrants, name change, multi-cultural, International Festival, location.

Infrastructure: Neighborhood layout good for walking/biking, Mesa Verde community center, La Mesa Elementary school, restaurants, Talin, Fairgrounds.

Transportation: Public transportation.

Weaknesses:

Community: Historic perception, Absentee landlords and real estate management, prostitution, crime/drugs at night, weed control at roundabouts and medians, lack of cooperation from local businesses, trash, residents need skill and training, property crime, lack of good jobs, no neighborhood involvement, noise,

Infrastructure: Lack of responsiveness from Code Enforcement and City, inadequate lighting, water main repair, not enough public green space, not enough places to walk to,

Transportation: Street repair, traffic barriers - hazard and give a bad perception, traffic

Zoning: Density, too many apartments, car dealerships encroach on residential streets, no landscaping, too many car dealerships, Louisiana from Central to Loma - businesses and streetscape not cohesive.

Opportunities:

Community: Festivals and music, Fairgrounds - possible redevelopment, block captain neighborhood involvement, land lord association, clean up properties, more community involvement.

Infrastructure: Entry feature/gateway into neighborhood, Asian Cultural Center, pocket park across from La Mesa Elementary School

Zoning/Land Use: Need bank and other general services, affordable housing, small business incubator/support for small businesses, cafes, restaurants, crafts with an international flavor, density - better quality multi-family to replace old apartments, Central shops, restaurants - draw people from rest of City,

Transportation: Bike lanes on Copper.

Challenges:

Community: Prostitution, Community involvement, foreclosures, perception that La Mesa is a “dumping ground,” absentee landlords, lack of home ownership, lack of participation in Neighborhood Association.

Economic: Funding of projects.

Infrastructure: Need more police, space for parks, zoning enforcement, community center expansion, public utility inspections.

Zoning: multi-family

