

## What Do the Neighbors Think?

### Assessing the Community Impact of Neighborhood Stabilization Efforts

## Appendix E: Resident Quotes about the Role of City and Community Institutions in Neighborhood Stability

- Residents offered many comments regarding the performance of police and other institutional actors charged with maintaining social stability.
  - One young adult male renter noted that, “I feel like my neighborhood could be better if there was more cops in it.”
  - Another middle aged female homeowner argued, “We need more patrols. More police presence.”
  - Another elderly female homeowner explained, “There needs to be more police visibility. I hardly ever see police coming through or driving through the street to make their presence known.”
- Additionally, many view local community organizations as effective in confronting some neighborhood problems and instrumental in bridging community concerns to city level actors.
  - As one older female renter recounted, “Over the years there have been incidences [of crime] but because of the neighborhood association and the community watches [in neighboring developments] it’s been controlled. “
  - Another elderly female home owner related that her daughter served as the, “Neighborhood Association president. It takes time but can be done.”
  - An older male homeowner detailed how a neighbor living on an adjoining street was the leader of a neighborhood organization. “So he can give you all kinds of [advice]. So we are very active in the organization, and everybody is quite participating. If anything happens in this community, so there’s this issue we try to solve.”
- Other residents believed that neighborhood participation were necessary to bring about positive change and that residents needed to be more engaged.
  - As long term homeowner argued that people can solve community problems, “if they have the right resources.”
  - Another renter wrote “I feel there should be more community participation, and a way to gather the residents together to get more involved with their community/block.”

- Another resident believed that “my neighborhood should have better organizations and we all should share our opinions. Also the government should fix things around here.”
- Many residents see bridging between local and municipal organizations as crucial in promoting neighborhood stability.
  - One female homeowner “belongs to the neighborhood association which has monthly meetings and get a lot done, for example, they got stop signs. There is a community officer who reports to the group on the monthly crimes. Encourages everyone to call 911 if they see anything. “
  - Another long-time female owner noted that “The neighborhood has changed a lot of the people who have moved in are younger people. So there are a lot of parties w/ noise late at night. But [the neighborhood association] takes care of it. First we talk to them, if they don’t respond we call the police to let them know that we tolerate this.”
- Some residents did express a sense of institutional abandonment and alienation.
  - One young woman believed that her communities’ inability to effectively confront instability was “because the state’s an ass.”
  - One homeowner expressed frustration with both government and banks and their role in the foreclosure issue. “ The city/government is reactive rather than proactive. They wait until they’re in foreclosure. Banks are the same. No one is helping people keep their homes. “
  - Where it comes to foreclosure we haven’t had much luck, but when it comes to sanitation...we have garbage pick-up 2 days a week.”
  - Another person noted, “I wish banks and other lenders could work with owners to avoid these problems.”
  - As detailed above, one man recounted how the owners of the foreclosed home got “swindled” by the banks.”