

Elsmere City Employees Listening Session
City Hall
Tuesday, December 15, 2015

What do you value most about the city of Elsmere?

- Close knit family/community
- City cares for me as an employee
- Made tremendous progress in past 10 years – well-equipped/loyalty from city
- Small town atmosphere
- The city does more for the employees and for the citizens (party for the city residents)
- Community events to come out and see equipment
- Movies in the park
- Bigger is not better – small town atmosphere
- Personal service – citizens ask for employees by name
- Good benefits – city takes care of the employees
- Mayor is accessible
- Very diverse in terms of professional on-the-job experiences – rural, urban, suburban
- Close working relationship between departments – fire, police, public works

What are the weaknesses of Elsmere? What could be improved?

- Part-timers don't work out
- Trailer parks
- Rental properties
- Absentee landlords – need legislative action – owners are not vested in the community
- Need more street lighting in the neighborhoods
- Need better maintenance and investment in the parks
- Kids tearing up equipment
- Safety – need more cameras in the community at public properties
- Graffiti
- If the police department reaches recommended level (18-19 officers), we could be proactive
- Pay-wise – salaries are not equitable
- Police need to communicate better with public
- Citizens police academy would be good for public relations

What are the opportunities for Elsmere?

- Citizens police academy
- Elsmere city offices move to Dixie Highway – it is the first thing you see when you enter Elsmere – consolidate city services in one place – WE OWN THE PROPERTY – WE CAN DO THIS – maybe retrofit another existing building
- 5 garages currently – store equipment in many places – need to be consolidated
- All parks – wood boards around playground are safety issue
- Need restaurants (we have none) – Note: KLC needs to visualize
- Everything from Garvey and Dixie all the way to Main and Dixie needs to be demolished
- Eliminate blight
- Marketing strategy if blighted properties are condemned – private sector
- We need to grow/recruit/attract the young professionals

What are the threats facing Elsmere?

- Drug problems
 - Low income
 - Housing
 - Absentee landlords
 - Trailer parks (Grant's Trailer Park)
 - Court system
- The loss of industrial base - we must make them feel appreciated/give them attention
- Not having housing that is affordable for those moving here – not a good mix of housing stock

How do we get more people involved?

What should be the #1 priority?

- City government center
- Absentee landlords – need full-time enforcement officer
- Get rid of blight
- Marketing plan – welcome kit for new businesses and residents