



Neighborhood Associations

Neighborhood associations play a vital role in representing the interests of residents and enhancing our local community. A well-organized association can have a significant impact on the quality of life in a neighborhood. This manual was designed to help residents focus their efforts and organize their neighborhoods for action. Increasing citizen participation benefits the whole community by creating a positive environment of shared responsibility and collaboration.



Why Neighborhoods Organize

There are many different reasons why neighborhoods organize. Some of the most common reasons include:

- **To address a particular concern**

Many neighborhoods become organized when a particular concern emerges in which they can rally around. As an association, members can work together to resolve issues and use resources already available within their neighborhood.

- **To empower residents**

When neighborhoods organize, they acquire power by joining together to accomplish goals.

- **To build community**

Organizing to build community means improving your neighborhood's ability to act and organize the diverse skills of its residents.

Benefits to Organizing Neighborhood Associations

Through neighborhood organizing, residents get to know each other better while working to improving their community. Some of the benefits of having an organized association include:

- Build a sense of community among neighbors.
- Provide the neighborhood with a common voice and an effective means of communicating with local government officials and other instrumental groups.
- Empowered neighborhoods can have input in the decision making that affects their neighborhoods.
- Organize and help members work for preservation and improvements in their neighborhood.
- Planning and hosting social activities for the neighborhood.



Role of the Citizen

Citizens have a very important role in the health and spirit of a community. Active involvement is crucial to improving the quality of life in your neighborhoods and the overall city. Each neighborhood is unique and different therefore roles are not always the same in every community.

Role of Local Government

The preservation and maintenance of an area's quality of life is a shared responsibility. Local government is responsible for ensuring that the common good is protected and public services are carried out in an efficient and effective manner. The focus of Community Development Department is to develop creative community based strategies to strengthen neighborhoods and coordinate programs that accurately reflect and address local needs and conditions.