



WORKING GROUP STRATEGY GUIDE

Safety

Priority Outcomes

- Residents are living in a safer environment.
- Chicago Heights is recognized as a safe community.
- Residents and the Police are partners in safety.

Framing the Challenge

- Safety is another prerequisite for creating a neighborhood of choice.
 - Optics are paramount on this issue; think innovatively.
 - New mixed-income housing that replaces existing public housing will help the image of the area.
 - Seeing is believing. The innovative approach must have a visual element to it that people can see.

9/12/2018

What Neighborhood Residents Have Told Us

- While the neighborhood is a lot safer than it used to be, there are still some safety concerns including poor street lighting, vacant and abandoned buildings, and crime. The perception of safety is an issue.
- A stronger neighborhood police presence is desired by many, including increased police foot patrols, especially during the summer

Assets

- Engaged Police Department
- Chicago Heights Police Department is located in the Downtown/East Side Neighborhood
- Violent crime in the neighborhood has declined over the past three years
- Lots of vacant and dilapidated buildings have been torn down reducing opportunities for criminal activity

Challenges

- Violent crime rate in the neighborhood remains much higher than Chicago Heights overall
- Vacant and dilapidated buildings remain
- Recycling businesses make the neighborhood appear unmaintained and sometimes attract undesirable people to the neighborhood
- Funding for police services is limited and must be prioritized along with other community service needs