

May 15, 2025

Dear Esteemed Members of the Baltimore City Council:

We urge you to allocate increased funding to support immigrant communities in Baltimore City. In light of the current federal administration's hostility toward immigrants, **we believe that more of our taxpayer dollars should be allocated to advancing the rights and ensuring the well-being of our immigrant neighbors.** As the federal government actively seeks to destroy immigrant families, we look to our local government to serve as a crucial safeguard to defend our community members and their rights.

By investing in programs and services that assist immigrants, you will send a strong message to the New Americans in our community who have been feeling powerless, voiceless, and anxious. In this way, our local government can work to ensure that *all* of its residents feel safe, even as those outside Baltimore target our city with misinformation, fear, and threats.

Baltimore City is home to more than 50,000 immigrants (almost 10% of the city's population). These fifty-some thousand Baltimoreans are spouses, parents, caretakers, friends, instructors, students, and colleagues to the rest of the population. Significantly, many of those individuals are parents to U.S. citizen children. The lives of our immigrant neighbors are woven into the fabric of Baltimore, and without allocating sufficient funds to programs that provide support and services to immigrants, our local government risks disrupting countless communities across the city.

Increased funding for immigrant-supporting programs would create protections for Baltimore's New Americans, who are facing an unprecedented level of xenophobic and racist persecution from the current federal administration. Our immigrant communities contribute—beyond taxpayer dollars—greater diversity of experience, perspective, and talent to Baltimore. These people deserve to feel safe in the city they have chosen as their home and as the place where they want to raise their families. Bolstering immigrant services with additional city funds tells current and future immigrants that Baltimore protects its own and will not abandon its residents to hate and ignorance.

Baltimore, like other cities in the U.S., would not be the strong, resilient, and charming city it is today without its deep and ongoing history of welcoming immigrants. **We ask that you apportion funding to programs that support immigrant families and only adopt a budget with such a revision** to ensure that our immigrant families can stay together to continue thriving in and contributing to our shared community of Baltimore.

Respectfully,  
The undersigned

### *Community Organizations*

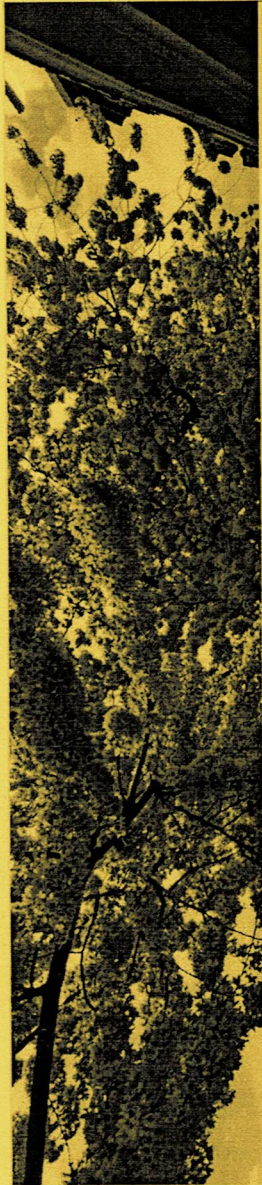
Amica Center for Immigrant Rights, 11th District  
Asylee Women Enterprise, 2nd District  
Centro de Apoyo para la Superación del Inmigrante (CAPSI)  
CASA, 13th District  
Chacón Center for Immigrant Justice at Maryland Carey Law, 11th District  
Chinese American Parent Association of Baltimore  
Centro de los Derechos del Migrante (CDM), 14th District  
Comité Latino de Baltimore, 1st District  
Critical Responses to Anti-Asian Violence (CRAAV)  
Episcopal Refugee & Immigrant Center Alliance, 14th District  
Esperanza Center, 1st District  
Global Refuge, 13th District  
Islamic Leadership Institute of America, 8th District  
Jews United for Justice, 12th District  
Just Neighbors, 11th District  
Komité Ayiti, Inc., 2nd District  
Latino Economic Development Center, 1st District  
Latino Racial Justice Circle  
League of Korean Americans in Maryland  
Maryland Latinos Unidos  
ROAR Healing Co., 7th District  
Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Baltimore  
Tahirih Justice Center, 11th District  
TAMOJA Foundation, 3rd District  
UNITE HERE Local 7, 7th District  
Women's Law Center of Maryland  
World Relief Baltimore, 11th District

### *Constituents*

Adonia Simpson, 12th District  
Anne Draddy, 14th District  
Anne Stangl, 5th District  
Carolyn Stolte, 7th District  
Carson McFadden, 3rd District  
Cathy Semans, 14th District  
Charlene Dyer, 8th District

Claire O'Brien, 3rd District  
Daniel Wilkinson, 7th District  
Dave Anguish, 6th District  
Elena Hampton-Stover, 13th District  
Ellen Line, 7th District  
Flor Giusti, 5th District  
George Jakuta, 14th District  
Giuliana Valencia-Banks, 7th District  
J. Alice Corral, 14th District  
Jack Newhouse, 11th District  
Joe O'Brien, 4th District  
Kate Jakuta, 14th District  
Kevin O'Brien, 4th District  
Kristine Smets, 11th District  
Lorena M. Diaz, 12th District  
Lucía Islas, 1st District  
Luis O. Cardona, 1st District  
Marly Cardona Moz, 1st District  
Maureen A. Sweeney, 4th District  
Mike Alksnis, 3rd District  
Mishy Leiblum, 3rd District  
Monica Guerrero Vazquez, 3rd District  
Pamela O'Brien, 4th District  
Paulina Saba, 11th District  
Rachel Sanchez, 14th District  
Rasha Elmahdi, 9th District  
Rianna Eckel, 12th District  
Ricardo Ortiz, 6th District  
Sean Danaher, 7th District  
Shannon Rommel, 13th District  
Tania Caballero, 14th District  
Tannaz Motevalli, 14th District  
Tyler Vinje, 7th District  
Xin Wang, 14th District





# MATTHEW HENSON/ EASTERWOOD VISION PLAN

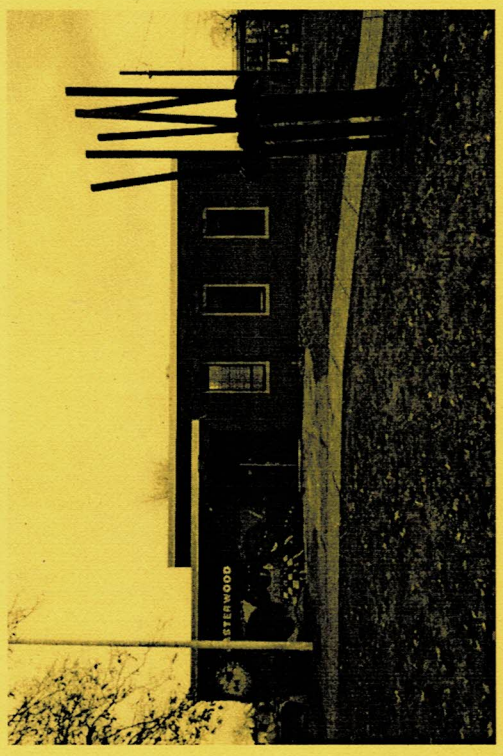
the  
Neighborhood  
Design Center

Project #3406

2020 September 30







The Neighborhood Design Center  
Johnny Macdon  
Kathryn Carter

120 W North Ave #306, Baltimore, MD 21201  
(410) 233-5686

**NDC Team**

**Team Leader:** Dawn Hogue, Long Design Lab  
Cory Brown, EMC Consulting Services  
Linda Fink, EMC Consulting Services  
Arnellia Jones  
Marcella Mares  
Sadiq Mohammed  
Riley Sull

**Matthew A. Henson Community Development Corporation (MHCDC)**

Dr. Marvin L. Chesham Sr., President

**Advisory Committee**

Matthew A. Henson, Neighborhood Association (MNA) Members  
Marvin Chesham, President  
Michael Boyd, Vice President  
Linda Fink, Treasurer  
Erma Ray, Financial Secretary  
Vern Fennell, Board Member  
Valerie Copeland, Recording Secretary  
Marvin Chesham, Recording Secretary  
Ira Bosker, Board Member  
Laura McKenzie, Board Member  
Amelia Boyd, Board Member



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DesignCenter

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## APPROACH

### PRIORITIES

On September 6, 2012, the MHCDC held a community evening charrette hosted by 40th legislative district Senator Barbara Reardon and attended by federal, city and state elected officials as well as officers and members of various neighboring community associations. Prioritized needs identified were as follows:

- Food Market
- Other neighborhood retail such as:
  - Bank or Credit Union
  - Pharmacy
- Community Action Center/ Outreach Village
- Community and Mental Health Services Facilities
- Senior Center and Services
- Job Training and Rehabilitation Services Center
- State of the Art Recreation Center
- Skateboard Park
- Improved mobility with better bus access and alternative mobility options

## VISION PLAN

The plan supports blighted or underutilized sites with new or updated uses such as new housing types, neighborhood retail, and community services facilities. Meanwhile, it considers how to improve the neighborhood's infrastructure by limiting the loss of existing trees and open spaces while simultaneously improving streetscapes with street trees and other improvements.

At the same time, the plan considers how the neighborhood can be redefined, with new gateway conditions marking entrances into the neighborhood. Also, the plan promotes the improvement of open spaces such as the Easterwood Park and school grounds to better serve the local community.

These improvements are done within a framework of enforcing Matthew Henson/ Easterwood as an enclave in West Baltimore. By building upon existing assets, the neighborhood is to be improved to be livable and beautiful as a place that is set apart. To do this, the plan takes advantage of the existing boundaries that form the edges of the neighborhood to consider them as thresholds. As one enters through these thresholds, the plan seeks to establish a strongly defined character that is both community focused and character where children and families can lay down roots and thrive.

Ultimately, the vision for the neighborhood is to create an amenity and services rich environment that meets people's needs and promotes investment and ownership.

The Matthew Henson Easterwood neighborhood is a unique enclave in West Baltimore. While the neighborhood does suffer from a concentration of blight on its east end, the majority of the neighborhood benefits from high owner occupancy affording the community with a measure of stability. This is noticeable when walking some of the neighborhood streets such as Baxter Avenue which has well maintained sidewalks, parks and tree walks with few vacant houses scattered in between.

The strength of the neighborhood is in its legacy residents, some of whom are among the first African Americans to move into the area following the diaspora of the historic Jewish community that once resided there. These life-long residents recall a safe neighborhood with supportive amenities populated by families with strong relationship investments in the neighborhood. The holdovers to this former enclave have helped to reestablish the neighborhood to what they believe it can be.

The vision for the Matthew Henson Easterwood neighborhood is to transform it to be a safe and quiet neighborhood where there is a variety of housing options that accommodate a diverse community. The desire is to make the neighborhood livable with quality amenities and services such as a food market, recreation center and community services.

To achieve this, the vision plan builds upon the strengths and unique characteristics of the neighborhood while also targeting its specific challenges.



the  
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# **MATTHEW HENSON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION – ppl 36,563  
P.O. BOX 23761- 501c3 – E.I.N. 47-4426049  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21203



From the Office of:  
Dr. Marvin L. Doc' Cheatham, Sr.  
Chief Executive Officer - President  
667/495-4990 [civilrights@verizon.net](mailto:civilrights@verizon.net)

## **BALTIMORE CITY DIRTIEST CITY SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS**

1. BETTER PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION TO RESIDENTS.
2. IMPROVED AND BETTER SIGNAGE OF STREET CLEANING DAYS.
3. CAMERAS IN CONTINUOUS DUMPING AREAS.
4. SCRUTINIZATION OF MAIL WITHIN GARBAGE.
5. INSTITUTE FINES AND INCREASE TRASH AND DUMPING PENALTY.
6. BUSINESS PENALTY OF DIRT REMOVAL WITHOUT TARPS.
7. INCREASE THE NUMBER OF LOTS COMMUNITIES CAN BE COMPENSATED FOR CUTTING AND CLEANING.
8. INCREASE DAYS OF 311 JUNK PICK-UP DAYS.
9. Authorize communities, such as M.H.C.D.C., that has over 100 vacant lots, to clean and cut more than the limited 35 vacant lots.
10. REDUCE DUMPING FEES ON CONTRACTORS.

***“ELIMINATE GRIME – DECREASE CRIME”***



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From the Office of:

Dr. Marvin L. 'Doc' Cheatham, Sr.

Chief Executive Officer

443/255-6056 [civilrights@verizon.net](mailto:civilrights@verizon.net)

## **BALTIMORE CITY, MD FOOD DESERTS/APARTHEID**

1. BRIDGEVIEW/GREENLAWN COMMUNITY
2. CHERRY HILL COMMUNITY
3. DOUGLASS HOMES
4. FRANKLINTOWN ELLAMONT APARTMENTS
5. GILMOR HOMES APARTMENTS
6. GREENS APARTMENTS AT FOREST PARK
7. GWYNNBROOKE TOWNHOUSE APARTMENTS
8. HARLEM PARK GARDEN APARTMENTS
9. HARVEY JOHNSON APARTMENTS
10. LAKEVIEW TOWERS APARTMENTS
11. MATTHEW HENSON COMMUNITY
12. MIDTOWN EDMONSON COMMUNITY
13. MOUNT VERDE APARTMENTS
14. NORTHWEST COMMUNITY COALITION
15. POPULAR GROVE – ROSEMONT GARDENS APARTMENTS
16. WINCHESTER - ROSEMONT GARDEN APARTMENTS
17. SANDTOWN COMMUNITY
18. THE ALLENDALE 3600 APARTMENTS
19. WEST HARLEM PARK COMMUNITY
20. WESTCHESTER GARDENS APARTMENTS
21. WINCHESTER SENIOR CITIZENS