

NAPOLEON A. BELL
Executive Director

MARY HOWARD
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Vice Chair



COMMUNITY RELATIONS
COMMISSION

June 30, 2014

Dear Stakeholder:

We are pleased to provide you with a copy of the consultant team's **Roadmap to Revitalization: Southern Gateway Community Report**.

This final report includes an extensive appendix containing a wealth of data and information such as the demographic profile of the Southern Gateway area, detailed recommendations from each of the ten committees and background information supporting the Reeb School renewal.

With the help of many partners, including the Southern Gateway residents, implementation work has already begun and progress is being made.

- The *South Side Voice* community newspaper is providing information to about 9,000 households and resulting in increased participation in some civic events and a stronger feeling of community among the ten area civic associations
- Entrepreneurs are starting more businesses including the new Fitness Loft, restaurant and visitor's center at the corner of Livingston and Parsons Avenue, a new billiard-themed restaurant under development on High Street in Merion Village and renovation of a neglected property into a new, upscale casual restaurant on Parsons Avenue.
- Residents are actively involved in getting to know the area better through the Community Engagement Committee that studies and discusses various community issues such as education and employment and
- A group of residents is involved in a Substance Abuse Solutions Committee to reduce crime fueled by substance abuse and addictions.

These efforts complement the changes in infrastructure through eliminating numerous vacant and abandoned properties, the development of over 45 new houses, the opening of the John R. Maloney Health and Wellness Center, street curbing, curb cuts and resurfacing and the anticipated opening of Parsons Senior, the 56 unit senior apartment project in 2015.

There is much work yet to do and your support has been and will continue to be a critical component in helping this neighborhood on the journey to revitalization for the benefit of the residents and visitors alike.

Sincerely,

Erika Clark Jones
Community Relations Commission
Deputy Director / Southern Gateway Project Lead

