



# West Ward Revitalization Plan March 2009

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## I. Background and Introduction

***Easton: A Weed & Seed Community.*** In the summer of 1997 the Pennsylvania State Police, in conjunction with the Easton Police, Northampton County Sheriff's office and the District Attorney executed a Trigger Lock program in the City of Easton's Dutchtown/Gallows Hill neighborhood near 6<sup>th</sup> and Northampton Streets. The initial undercover operations and arrests were followed by an intense "saturation patrol" which served notice on the criminal element and gave hope of a more stable neighborhood to the residents. The success of this enforcement action prompted the City Administration to expand the effort and seek more permanent solutions to stabilize and improve this area of the city. In 1998, through an informal dialogue with then Lieutenant Governor Mark Schweiker, Easton Mayor Thomas Goldsmith became aware of the Pennsylvania Weed and Seed Initiative. At the same time, the Easton Police Department began formulating plans to establish a neighborhood police program.

The history of Easton's development is revealed by its neighborhoods: Downtown, Dutchtown/Gallows Hill and West Ward figure early in Easton's formation. The establishment of Lafayette College north of the Bushkill Creek formed College Hill; and once a borough of its own, South Side now maintains its autonomy as a neighborhood of the City of Easton. Each of the neighborhoods has a unique character. Easton Area School District and moderately priced housing in Easton have created a potential for attracting new home owners. Maintaining the high caliber of the neighborhoods is critical to growth and development as neighborhood quality remains an important factor evaluated by home buyers. Easton's neighborhoods, while they possess strengths to attract new residents, also face a number of challenges that require focused attention.

By mid 1999, the establishment of the new Neighborhood Police Division was announced and in December, a formal organizing group of the Easton Weed and Seed Program met in Easton City Hall. This initial group included Mayor Goldsmith, Carl Anderson of the Lieutenant Governor's Office, Reverend Fred Davis, State Representative Robert Freeman, the Northampton County District Attorney, City Solicitor and Easton Police Chief. Several more organizing meetings were held in 2000 culminating in a formal application being submitted for participation in the PA Weed and Seed initiative.

On November 3, 2000, over 100 residents and community leaders gathered at St. Anthony's Youth Center to join Lt. Governor Schweiker in announcing Easton as a Weed & Seed community. Beginning with a walk through the target area and culminating at 6<sup>th</sup> and Walnut Streets, the announcement touted the success of the undercover operation just completed and the beginning of the seed side of the program.

In pursuing Weed & Seed participation, the Easton community has pledged its commitment to improving the quality of life for its residents and for future generations. During the first five years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, city government has made great strides to develop, maintain and sustain programs that ensure:

1. Safety on our streets, in our downtown, and in our neighborhoods
2. Safe, affordable housing in attractive, well-maintained neighborhoods
3. A strong economic base with incentives and assistance for development, small business enterprise, and job creation and retention
4. Affordable reuse opportunities for commercial and residential rehabilitation
5. Comprehensive recreational facilities, green and open spaces, readily available and convenient to residents
6. An affordable standard of living
7. Self-sufficiency of all community members
8. Quality education opportunities and job training for all ages
9. Adequate infrastructure, and high level, quality public services

Additional Accomplishments (2002 – 2008) include:

1. Since its inception, the Route 222 Corridor Taskforce initiative has aided in the tracking and prevention of gang drug trafficking and violence.
2. The establishment of the HOPE VI public housing initiative in June 2006.

3. The 2006 Landlord licensing program was implemented to ensure that rental units meet Easton Code Enforcement standards.
4. (2007) New Latino businesses/owned and operated in the target area (3/barber shop, grocery mart, restaurant etc... Note: we are unable to validate an increase in the Latino population until information is available from the 2010 census.
5. 2007 Accreditation of the Police Dept through the PA Chiefs of Police
6. The Easton Area School District has added Easton Area Academy (to address the needs of those students that are not able to flourish in the traditional school environment). 50% of the students (grade 5-12) are from the West Ward.
7. 2008 Approved by city council, funding has been secured for security and surveillance cameras that will be installed by the end of 2010
8. 2008 Graffiti removal ordinance.
9. Beginning in July 2009 additional officers will be added to the Easton Police Department (EPD.) With these additional officers, EPD will provide the opportunity for additional proactive programs or measures to be introduced to the community, such as the return of the police bicycle patrol within the West Ward.
10. Safe Passages / Safe Havens child protection program was initiated between Weed and Seed, EPD, NPP, & EASD.
11. Not In Our Neighborhood Reporting Quadrants Program.

The City of Easton continues to be dedicated to reinforcing and supporting a strong collaboration between federal, state, and local government along with the public & private sectors of the community. With the fragile state of the economy, it has become even more important to pull resources in order to deliver quality services that will have a positive impact on quality of life in the struggling target area of the city.

Through the use of CDBG funds, coupled with the general fund and bond issues, the city maintains continuous programs for the upgrade of public facilities and the promotion of economic development. The City is seeking to stabilize neighborhoods and the tax base of the City through revitalization of basic infrastructure such as parks, streets, and utilities. The Community Development Block Grant Program is one tool for realizing these goals; the introduction of complementary programs and funds, such as Weed and Seed and HOME grants for owner-occupied housing enable a concentrated effort in targeted areas simultaneous.

In 2009, Mayor Panto dedicated 2009 as the "Year of the Neighborhoods" and has applied for stimulus funds to be applied towards infrastructure revitalization and improvement from which the City of Easton will receive over \$102,000.00 in funding. According to Mayor Panto the City is in support of a de-conversion initiative and also offering police officers incentives to live in the West Ward. A current West Ward resident running for city council plans to begin his campaign with a series of listening sessions throughout the neighborhood, and will create his platform specifically from residents concerns.

The Mayor has organized individual neighborhood meetings to address community strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities. The West Ward Neighborhood Summit held in February 2009 was attended by approximately 50 West Ward residents and business owners. \*With the total population estimated to be a little over 10,000 (2000 Census) this survey does not represent a good sample.

**\*RESULTS of SURVEY FOR WW NEIGHBORHOOD SUMMIT MEETING**

**2/18/09**

**TOTAL SURVEYS = 35**

1. Do you live in or do you have a vested interest in the West Ward? YES= 35 NO= 0
  2. If yes, how long? Years<1=0 1-3= 10 4-6= 7 6-10=1 10+= 17
  3. What is your age? High School age up to 19=2 20-25= 1 26-35=5 36-55= 13 56-75= 13 76 and up= 0
  4. On a scale of 1-5 rate Quality of Life in the West Ward?(worst) 1=0 2= 9 2.5=1 3= 17 4= 6 5= 2 (best)
  5. Do you rent or own your residence? RENT= 4 OWN= 29
  6. Have you attended a school board meeting in the last year? YES= 5 NO= 30
  7. Have you attended a city council meeting in the last year? YES= 18 NO= 15
  8. Do you know what Weed and Seed does in the community? YES= 29 NO= 3
  9. Do you know what the WWNP does in the community? YES= 29 NO= 4 SOMEWHAT=1
  10. Do you feel that your neighborhood is safe? YES= 15 NO= 11 SOMEWHAT=5
  11. Do you feel that city officials are responsive to your issues? YES= 15 NO= 11 SOMEWHAT= 7
  12. Are you employed? YES= 23 NO= 9 RETIRED= 2
  13. Do you rely on public transportation? YES= 4 NO= 31
  14. Do you have a computer in your home? YES= 32 NO=3
  15. What concerns you most about the area in which you live?
    - 25=Public Safety (crime/violence/drugs)
    - 23=slum landlords/code violations
    - 16=Neighborhood Conditions (lighting/sidewalks)
    - 13=Road/Street conditions
    - 11=Youth Activities (lack of)
    - 11=Garbage
    - 9=Recycling
    - 6=Public Transportation (lack of)
    - 4=Human Services (lack of resources available)
    - OTHER = prison re-entry, lead (2), train service, people don't talk to each other (play videogames, on computers and watch TV instead), mental health services - connection of the community with teens, young adults and welcome new families, gangs.
  16. What is the best thing about your neighborhood?
    - 22=Friendly neighbors
    - 18=Cost of living
    - 12=Police presence
    - 10=Proximity to public transportation
    - 6=Availability of resources
    - 5=Schools
    - 4=Recreational opportunities
    - 3=Quality of neighborhoods (beauty/road conditions)
    - 3=My voice is heard and counts
    - 2=Safety
    - 1=Daycare available
- Please share any other concerns you have:
- Stop gangs, drugs and alcohol
  - Need more houses and jobs
  - Opportunities in job training for young people and opportunities for new businesses for young

people  
Gangs and drug dealers (2).  
We are negative about stuff.  
Representation/Set-up of neighborhood voting lines  
Court ordinance enforcement  
Abandoned properties (2)

A topic discussed at the Neighborhood Summit Meeting the night this survey was conducted is the Neighbors of Easton Blog, [www.neighborsofeaston.blogspot.com](http://www.neighborsofeaston.blogspot.com), which was designed as a communication tool to speak to issues concerning the West Ward community (initiated in the Fall of 2008). At the West Ward summit meeting, the creator of this blog addressed that the bloggers were concerned with slum landlords, garbage, and transportation (bringing the commuter trains back to the city). Note: readership accessing this site is estimated to be 100 people. Constituents who utilize this site typically do not reflect the composition of the West Ward community, as such in comparison to the total West Ward population, this site appears to be an ineffective communication tool, unable of generate outcome measurement that can be utilized by the West Ward community.

Identified strengths include:

1. The diversity of the community
2. The establishment of community restaurants and successful neighborhood services
3. The historic presence and the on-going commitment to community improvement

Identified weaknesses include:

1. Parking
2. Drugs / Gangs / Crime
3. Lighting
4. Lack of "green space"
5. Trash
6. Code Violations
7. Youth detached to the community

Identified threats include:

1. Gangs
2. Drugs
3. The loss of hope

Identified opportunities include:

1. Home ownership
2. The Façade program

**West Ward Target Area.** The West Ward neighborhood encompasses the portion of Easton from 6th Street west to 15th Street and from the Lehigh River north to the Bushkill Creek. It is a predominantly residential neighborhood, interspersed with "Mom and Pop" type commercial establishments that cater to the needs of the surrounding residents. Northampton Street is characterized by structures housing a mix of upper floor apartments and first floor storefronts. Row houses and detached single-family dwellings are prevalent. The conversion of single-family dwellings to two-family and multi-family dwellings and the resulting densities and parking demands are of serious concern in the West Ward neighborhood. The parking issue particularly affects residents and businesses in West Ward who rely more heavily on alleys for access than those in the other neighborhoods of Easton. An exception to the higher density area adjacent to the Downtown neighborhood is the extreme west end near 15th Street. The single-family dwellings on larger lots stand out in contrast to the dense attached housing that is typical of the West Ward neighborhood.

West Ward offers the many traditional conveniences of an established, well-located neighborhood: local retail and food establishments, corner bus stops offering access to public transit, nearby hospital, main branch of the public library, and neighborhood parks and tot lots. Additionally, the Easton Area School District, comprised of Easton and several suburban municipalities, offers high quality public education.

EASD schools include:

1. Six elementary schools (grades K – 4) (seven by Aug. 2009)
2. Intermediate campus (grades 5-8)
3. The Academy/Alternative education site (grades 5-12)
4. One high school (grades 9-12)

Currently one of these grade schools is located in the West Ward. Due to redistricting, which will not be completed until September 2009, an elementary school located in the West Ward affords students (K-4) the convenience of walking to school. The West Ward is noted for a high level of community involvement, where residents, churches and Block Watches work cooperatively.

Objectives for the West Ward neighborhood, according to the City of Easton Comprehensive Plan include:

1. Eradicate vice and street violence
2. Improve property maintenance
3. Restrict conversions, encourage deconversions
4. Promote owner-occupancy
5. Ensure off street parking
6. Increase recreational opportunities
7. Reestablish neighborhood shopping district

Exacerbated by the fragile state of the economy, the West Ward is desperately in need of programs targeting employment, transportation (as current public transportation ends at 6:00 PM), nontraditional education (Street Schools), facade improvements, housing rehabilitation and new business incentives and internal infrastructure (sidewalks, trees and missing curb cuts). Due to the increase in crime, the only long standing financial institution closed in 2006, leaving the West Ward with no direct community access to conduct banking or supportive financial services.

***Demographic Profile:*** Like urban areas throughout the country, the City's population decreased from 1950 to 1980. This was due to three primary factors: a general trend of out-migration to suburban areas, a general trend of reduced family size; and an overall loss in total dwelling units as a result of urban renewal (neighborhood demolition) activities between 1950 and 1980. The 1990 U.S Census reported the first population increase in the City since 1950; The City's average number of persons per household has remained constant and the number of housing units has increased.

Though census information provided summarizes statistical data from 2000, the total (2008) population of the West Ward is estimated to be approximately 11,000 which will be confirmed by 2010 census information. Census data for the target area (Tract 142: West Ward from the 15th Street City Line to 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Tract 143' 10<sup>th</sup> Street to 6<sup>h</sup> Street) is summarized below:

SELECTED WEST WARD STATISTICS (2000)	
Estimated Population 11,000 (unconfirmed)	Persons in Poverty 27.9%
Minority Residents 23.3%	No High School Diploma 23.1%
Hispanic Residents 12.9%	Housing Built Before 1940 72.0%
Owner-Occupied Units 48.4%	Renter-Occupied Units 51.6%
EASD High School Level 2 Corrective Action Middle School Level 1 Corrective Action	Unskilled Laborers 72.45%

Source: 2009 Weed & Seed Community Profile

WEST WARD NEIGHBORHOOD BY CT's: 2000 Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile \*note the unemployment # looks very low, again, we are reporting data from 2000. \*With the economic crisis and unemployment statistics at 8.1% in the Lehigh Valley according to the local newspaper (March 2009) this number is obviously off.

Category	CT 142 & 143
Persons 25+ with Bachelor's or Higher	4%
Persons 25+ with High School Diploma	16.1%
Persons 16-19 Years not Enrolled in School/not HS Graduate	23.1%
Civilian Labor Force Unemployed	.034% *
Persons Below the Poverty Level in 2000	27.9%
Median Household Income in 2000	\$29,040-30,208
Renter-Occupied Units, Gross Rent 35% or More of HH Income	29.2-31.1%
Owner-Occupied Units, Owner Costs 35% or More HH Income	23.4%
Housing Units Built Before 1940	70.1%
Median Monthly Gross Rent: Renter- Occupied Units	\$544-565
Median Value Owner Occupied Units	\$69,200-70,500

**WEST WARD NEIGHBORHOOD: Households with Children**

Census Tract	Total Households	HH with Children under18	% of HH with Children under 18
Tract 142	2197	754	34.32%
Tract 143	1548	454	29.33%
<b>Total Neighborhood</b>	<b>3745</b>	<b>1208</b>	<b>32.26%</b>
<b>Total City</b>	<b>9346</b>	<b>2601</b>	<b>27.83%</b>

Source: 2000 US Census

**WEST WARD NEIGHBORHOOD: Low / Moderate Income Concentrations by CT & BG**

Census Tract / Block Group	Total Persons	Total Low / Mod Persons	% of Low / Mod
<b>C. T. 142</b>	<b>5496</b>	<b>2541</b>	<b>46.23</b>
B.G. 1	1398	565	40.41
B.G. 2	1034	479	46.23
B.G. 3	1011	547	54.10
B.G. 4	1370	671	48.98
B.G. 5	683	279	40.85
<b>C.T. 143</b>	<b>3731</b>	<b>2373</b>	<b>63.60</b>
B.G. 1	1157	711	61.45
B.G. 2	1541	947	61.45
B.G. 3	1033	722	69.89
<b>Total Neighborhood</b>	<b>9227</b>	<b>4914</b>	<b>53.26%</b>

Source: US Department of Housing & Urban Development 2000

**WEST WARD NEIGHBORHOOD: Median Family Income Levels**

Census Tract	1980		1990		Percent Change 1980-1990
	MFI	As a % of City MFI	MFI	As of a % of City MFI	
142	15,512	95%	31,817	101%	105%
143	14,236	87%	21,996	70%	55%
<b>Total Neighborhood</b>	<b>14,874</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>26,907</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>80%</b>
City	16,398	100%	31,540	100%	92%
State	19,995	122%	34,856	111%	74%

Source: US Bureau of the Census

**Housing Characteristics:** The West Ward's housing stock is dominated by modest row homes and twins dating back to the late 1800s. In many sections of the area, the quality and upkeep of the homes has deteriorated. While 50.2% of the West Ward's housing stock was owner-occupied in 1990, the figure decreased to 44.9% in 2000. Median value of owner-occupied homes in the West Ward was \$70,625 in 1990, approximately 14% lower than the city's median property value. In 2008, the estimated median area rent is **\$711.00 per month for a two** bedroom unit. The City's housing stock tends to be older and smaller than that of surrounding municipalities. While the City's housing is less expensive than that of the surrounding communities, the median housing values have outpaced resident family and household income.

The West Ward has a share of mixed-use structures: corner stores, restaurants, taverns, and home offices. In recent years, there has been a trend toward conversions of single-family homes to multifamily dwellings, thus increasing density, erosion of neighborhood pride, parking demands, and more transient residents moving into the neighborhood. There is increasing community concern over the general decline in the physical condition of the city's residential areas and there is a general community consensus that high occupant turnover is an indicator of decline in the condition of the neighborhoods. It is strongly held that improved stability and care of neighborhoods will result from increased owner-occupancy.

City records further indicate:

<sup>1</sup> 2009 HUD

1. There is a greater incidence of problems with maintenance and upkeep of residential properties which are not owner-occupied than those that are owner-occupied.
2. There are a greater number of disturbances at residential rental units than owner-occupied units.
3. Various code violations are generally less severe at owner-occupied units than non-owner occupied units.

In regards to the accumulation of trash and the financial strain of the City of Easton budget, the city has shifted responsibility for picking up trash from multi-dwelling buildings to the landlord. Since 1997, zoning approvals were given for the conversion of sixteen two-unit properties back to single dwellings.

The City, in coordination with the Easton Housing Authority, introduced an affordable housing program in 1998 integrating a number of residential neighborhood goals, one being de-conversion. Known as the Easton Neighborhood Partnership, the program, utilizes grant funds through the Redevelopment Authority for the rehabilitation of properties purchased by the Housing Authority. These properties, identified as "nuisances," are to be resold as owner-occupied dwellings. De-conversion of two or three units to original single family dwellings is a program goal. The home buyer program is expected to be a primary vehicle for implementing the community strategy of returning to predominantly owner-occupied neighborhood. It is believed that this process of raising home ownership levels will significantly contribute to the stabilization and health of the neighborhoods and the community. Requests for conversions are seriously reviewed relative to compliance with both the city's Comprehensive Plan and the objectives of the municipal zoning code, particularly in terms of the protection of the established character and maintenance of the stability of residential areas.

In addition, the city's HOME program provides rehabilitation dollars to low and moderate income owner-occupants. Twenty single family homes were rehabilitated through this program from 1998 through 2000. The City's current HOME program is targeting single family homes in need of rehabilitation, but also the return of two-unit dwellings back to single family owner-occupied homes.

While the housing stock citywide has grown by 236 units during the decade of the 1990s, the West Ward's eastern neighborhood lost 175 units and the western neighborhood only gained 28 units. In addition, consistent with the trend citywide, the percent of renter-occupied units increased significantly for both the West Ward's eastern and western neighborhoods. The western neighborhood has 22.8 percent of the City's total housing stock. The bulk of the West Ward's housing stock is made up of row homes (attached units) and multi-unit properties. Single-family detached units comprise only 15.4 percent of the West Ward's housing stock. The design type of the majority of the housing stock reinforces the high-density nature of the West Ward neighborhood in terms of both population and spatial layout.

**WEST WARD HOUSING STOCK TRENDS: 1990 to 2000**

Categories	1990	2000	1990-2000	%1990-2000	% City
<b>Easton</b>					
1, Detached	2,279	2,479	200	8.8%	-
1, Attached	3,863	3,863	0	0.0%	-
2 Units	1,312	1,163	-149	-11.4%	-
3 or 4 Units	1,114	1,226	112	10.1%	-
5 to 9 Units	662	720	58	8.8%	-
10 to 19 Units	377	409	32	8.5%	-
20+ Units	587	680	93	15.8%	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,309</b>	<b>10,545</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>CT 142</b>					
1, Detached	328	401	73	22.3%	16.2
1, Attached	1,142	1,105	-37	-3.2%	28.6%
2 Units	385	363	-22	-5.7%	31.2%
3 or 4 Units	260	257	-3	-1.2%	21.0%
5 to 9 Units	83	108	25	30.1%	15.0%
10 to 19 Units	69	70	1	1.5%	17.1%
20+ Units	97	30	-67	-69.1%	4.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,379</b>	<b>2,407</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>22.8%</b>
<b>CT 143</b>					

1, Detached	189	218	29	15.3%	8.8%
1, Attached	733	695	-38	-5.2%	18.0%
2 Units	334	282	-52	-15.6%	24.2%
3 or 4 Units	242	249	7	2.9%	20.3%
5 to 9 Units	136	84	-52	-38.2%	11.7%
10 to 19 Units	36	38	2	5.6%	9.3%
20+ Units	82	44	-38	-46.3%	6.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,785</b>	<b>1,610</b>	<b>-175</b>	<b>-9.8%</b>	<b>15.3%</b>

Source: 1990-2000 census

In 2007, the Easton Weed and Seed Housing committee spearheaded the creation of a comprehensive rental property management systems study. Partnering with a community consultant who worked with various city officials, Weed and Seed was instrumental in developing and implementing the program which is currently administered through the City of Easton Codes Enforcement Office.

#### Crime Statistics – Gang Related Crime

The City of Easton experienced a surge of gang related crime in the late 1990's. An influx of gangs, primarily from New York and New Jersey, arrived at that time due to heightened enforcement in New York City and the completion of Route 78 which provides expedient travel to and from the Metropolitan New York and New Jersey cities. In March 2006, the Route 222 Corridor Anti-Gang Initiative, a multi-jurisdictional task force was initiated by then United States District Attorney Patrick Meehan to address the influx of gangs in a six county, seven city area spanning eastern Pennsylvania. The counties included Northampton, Lehigh, Berks, Lancaster, York and Dauphin. The cities included Easton, Bethlehem, Allentown, Reading, Lancaster, York and Harrisburg.

The initiative combines law enforcement agencies at the local, county, state and federal levels to work cohesively to combat gangs in the corridor. Mayors in each of the Cities also formed Mayor's Anti- Gang Task Forces to provide programming for anti-gang initiatives with financial resources provided by the grant. The program has been very successful in the City of Easton with City detectives partnering with F.B.I. agents in Allentown to conduct large scale, gang affiliated drug investigations resulting in several multi offender arrest operations. Many offenders have pleaded guilty, drawing severe federal prison terms for their crimes.

Tracking gang related crime in Pennsylvania is difficult at best. The Commonwealth does not have a statutory definition or offense related specifically to gangs as most other states do. Via the Route 222 Corridor Anti-Gang Initiative, the Easton Police Department tracked these offenses in 2007 on a city-wide basis due to the initiative encompassing the entire city. That said, the following statistics were reported for 2007 and 2008 to the anti gang initiative:

#### Part IV: Gang Related Crime 2007

- A. All Homicides (involving an actor(s) with known gang affiliation 5  
With Firearm (involving an actor(s) with known gang affiliation 5  
Without Firearm 0
  
- B. All aggravated assaults 68 involving an actor with known gang affiliation 10  
With Firearm 13 involving an actor with known gang affiliation 10  
Without Firearm 55
  
- C. All Robberies 69 involving an actor with known gang affiliation -unknown  
With Firearm 21 involving actor(s) with known gang affiliation -unknown  
Without Firearm 48

**D. Summary:**

In 2007, all of the City of Easton's Homicides occurred in the Weed and Seed Target Area; therefore 100% of the five were gang related. Citywide, 15% of the aggravated assaults were gang related.

The majority of the City of Easton's gang-related crime is committed in the target area. In fact, that crime has escalated since a HOPE VI Project began in 2007 and shuttered one of the housing authorities' residential projects not in the target area. Since the target area is a majority rental housing or Section 8 housing, many of the gang associates that were displaced relocated in the target area. There are instances of gang activity in other neighborhoods of the City of Easton, but not to the extent in the target area.

**Saturation patrols with the Pennsylvania State Police.**

The Easton Police Department continues to perform saturation patrol operations in the target area with the Pennsylvania State Police Troop M.

**Saturation Patrols with the Northampton County Sheriff's Department.**

The Easton Police Department also utilized the Northampton County Sheriff's Department in various saturation patrols.

**Adult and Juvenile probation home visits with the Northampton County Court Administration.**

Easton Police Officers partner with Northampton County Probation Offices to conduct home visits with offenders on probation to ensure compliance with terms of their probation.

**Participation in the Lehigh Valley Violent Crime Task Force with local, state and federal law enforcement.**

The Easton Police Department is a member of the Lehigh Valley Violent Crimes Task Force. Easton Vice/Narcotics Detectives partner with F.B.I. agents and D.E.A. agents in targeting suspects in the drug trade. These operations have been very successful, resulting in large corrupt organizations busted and longer federal prison sentences.

**Route 222 Coalition, Anti Gang initiative participation with local, state and federal agencies**

Initiated by former U.S. Attorney Patrick L. Meehan of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, this six county, seven city collaborative effort utilized local, state and federal agencies to combat gang violence and the associated social effects gangs have on society. The cities in the effort include Easton, Bethlehem, Allentown, Reading, Lancaster, York and Harrisburg. Federal agencies include the F.B.I., D.E.A. and B.A.T.E. The effort attacks the gang problems from both law enforcement and social agencies that operate in each city as a Mayor's anti-gang task force. This has recently (2009) been renamed the Law Enforcement Crimes Task Force.

**Northampton County Drug Task Force**

Police Officers and Detectives from several local law enforcement agencies conduct narcotic investigations under the auspices of District Attorney John Morganelli's Office.

**Read It, Record It, Remove it Anti-graffiti program.**

This program is funded by a federal Community Development Block Grant and utilizes V.I.P.S Volunteers in Police Services) to locate and photograph graffiti. After logging the locations, the information is passed on to the police department for removal. A power washing vehicle was purchased for removal and has removed over one-hundred fifty (150) locations in 2008. Since the program's inception, instances of graffiti have been gradually reduced in the target area.

**Easton Police Department saturation patrols and Vice/Narcotics operations**

Funded by the Community Development Block Grant, the Easton Police Department conducts supplemental saturation patrols and vice/narcotics operations to complement the Weed and Seed Saturation patrols. In 2009, the Police Department will send ten officers to the International Police Mountain Bike Association Certification Training and refurbish ten existing Cannondale Police Bicycles to conduct bicycle saturation patrols.

**Formation of the Community Intramural Basketball League by the Easton Police Department and Greater Shiloh Church.**

The Easton Police Department and the Greater Shiloh Church have partnered to provide our youth with a basketball league for players 11-13, boys and girls on coed teams during the summer months. The concept was born out of a meeting in the spring of 2007 with Mayor Phil Mitman, Pastor Phil Davis, City Councilman Ken Brown, Deacon Waltar Bright and Chief of Police Larry Palmer in response to some violent incidents of crime. The concern of all present was that our younger youth were not afforded the opportunity to play in a summer basketball league as our older teens were. The opportunity for all to play regardless of athletic prowess and the structured teaching of respect, sportsmanship and fellowship to all became the goal of the league. From sponsorship by the Easton Police Department and Commissioners, coaches and support staff from Greater Shiloh Church, the league will enter its third season in 2009. Many youth have been impacted by this program with very little cost. Due to the hours selflessly dedicated by Greater Shiloh members and staff, the program has increased in the numbers of youth involved. The 2009 league will feature eight teams with fifteen youth per team. With two games per week and periodic practices, our 11-13 year old youth have a structured activity and socialization from June to August.

**Cops - N- Kids program at the Easton Area Middle School with the Easton Police Department and other local first responders.**

The Easton Police Department conducts a program called Cops-n-Kids in conjunction with the Easton Area School District that sends Easton Police Officers into the classrooms of fifth and sixth graders in the Easton Area Middle School. The Officers "teach" classes about what it is like to be a Police Officer. The program culminates with a field day outside with many specialty units of local police departments, emergency medical services, medical helicopter units and fire departments demonstrating their capabilities. The program was developed to build a bond with students in the classroom setting and demonstrate the various emergency responder careers available to them.

**Secure Our Schools Grant Safe Passages Safe Havens**

Secure Our Schools Grant is a collaborative effort between the Easton Police Department, the Easton Area School District and a neighboring municipality, Wilson Borough, PA. Totaling \$826,000.00 between matches and U.S. Department of Justice Grant money, this grant will provide recorded surveillance in the vicinity of the West Ward's Elementary School (Paxinosa) and surrounding neighborhood. It also provides for more secure lighting and school entrance security.

*Community-Based Profile:* Since the inception of the Weed and Seed program focusing on the West Ward, the resources of local community-based organizations have been mobilized to collaboratively address the community's needs as previously mentioned. The Assistance for Impact Delegation (AID) and subcommittees include representatives from many of these resources, utilizing their experience in the target area and in general to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the West Ward. These resources will be extremely valuable as the City moves forward with the Weed & Seed Program.

Of historical importance is the separation of two West Ward service organizations. The first is Weed and Seed and the second is the West Ward Neighborhood Partnership. With the support of Mayor Mitman, in 2005 the West Ward Neighborhood Partnership was a West Ward initiative developed by the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley. Over the course of the years the objectives of these entities moved forward in differing directions (i.e. not adopting Weed and Seed By-Laws, etc). As part of this shift, Weed and Seed reorganized and refocused the direction of Weed and Seed in order to continue to meet existing and future regulatory requirements of PCCD.

**II. Weed and Seed Basics**

*Program Structure, Primary Participants and Required Local Communities:* The Weed and Seed program, modeled after the federal program, is a two-pronged approach. Programs and specialized initiatives address the negative and criminal elements of the targeted area while supporting and enhancing the positives. The "Weed"

portion of Easton's efforts began in the summer of 2000 with undercover operations conducted by a cooperative effort of local and state law enforcement authorities. The "sting" operation which occurred on the evening of November 2, 2000 into the early hours of November 3<sup>rd</sup> arrested many individuals and confiscated many weapons and drugs from the West Ward neighborhood. Seeding followed in early 2002 with the establishment of the Assistance for Impact Delegation (AID) Team.

The Easton Police Department oversees the targeted police efforts in the West Ward. Activities include: undercover operations, saturation patrols and sweeps conducted in cooperation with the county Sheriff's department, State Police, and ongoing neighborhood community policing. The latter are key to providing both a presence in the neighborhood and building relationships between officers on foot, bicycle, motorcycle and patrol cars. It is essential that there be a trust for the local police as well as an increasing level of confidence in their pursuit of protecting the public.

<b>Committee/Person</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>Meets</b>
Weed and Seed Site Coordinator works with all Weeding and Seeding initiatives/member of all subcommittees	On-site supervision, grant management, ongoing referrals	n/a
Weed and Seed Steering Committee Chair	Develops the AID Team Meeting agenda and assures the meeting is productive with reports from all committees	Once monthly immediately Before the AID Team Mtg.
Weed and Seed Steering Committee (membership of 5) Chair	Steers the agenda for the AID Team	Once monthly
AID TEAM Assistance for Impact Delegation Chair and Co-chair (membership of 30)	Provide direct oversight and management of the initiative, goals and objectives. Protocol.	Once monthly
AID Team Subcommittees (4) <u>Law Enforcement/LECTF</u> <u>Community Policing/Safety</u> <u>Prevention/Intervention/Treatment</u> Health and Human Services Youth Development <u>Neighborhood Restoration</u>	Strategy implementation, procedures, program evaluation	Once monthly (each)
Subcommittee Management <u>Law Enforcement</u> Chair/LECTF-Chief of Police <u>Community Policing/Safety</u> Chair-CPL (Community Police Liaison) Lt. J. Remaley <u>Prevention/Intervention/Treatment</u> Health/Human Services Subcommittee Chair-L. Morris Youth Development Subcommittee Chair-J. Dreistadt <u>Neighborhood Revitalization</u> Chair-open	Day to day management of individually funded programs and goals, linkage of weeding and seeding initiatives	Once Monthly

*The Community Assistance for Impact Delegation (AID):*

The AID Team is a viable and active group of key non-profit, government, private sector and community residents. They meet monthly to focus on continuously updating the current revitalization plan and delivering services and resources to target area residents. The focus is on addressing the four key principles of Law Enforcement, Community Policing, Prevention-Intervention-Treatment, and Neighborhood Restoration in a comprehensive manner.

Team members provide leadership ,technical assistance, and approve policies/procedures, endorsements and proposals for funding projects/programs that will impact the target area. They have the ability to identify and leverage resources to support initiatives identified in the revitalization plan and establish a process for the solicitation, review, and selection of projects/programs for grant funding opportunities.

These community leaders and residents are committed to supporting the Weed and Seed Initiative: Mayor/Municipal Executive, Police Chief, Community Police Liaison, County DA, Local Community-Based organizations (one or more), Faith-Based organization/Church (one or more), residents (s) of the target area (at least 6). Additional members include: local and county officials, nonprofit organizations serving the target area, public agencies including local, county and state agencies, corporate and private sector representatives, including local businesses. The membership of the AID team will not exceed 30 representatives. All members are informed that they may designate an alternate to attend meetings on their behalf in the case that they're unavailable. Each AID team member signs a letter of commitment indicating that they understand the importance of their role.

*Additionally:*

1. At least 50% of the AID team are residents from the target area and may include any person that has a vested interest in the target area (i.e. church pastor, landlords, etc). The target area local leaders organized in the original Weed and Seed revitalization plan are being absorbed into this grouping as well as the Neighborhood Restoration Committee as the current TALL team coordinator is being relocated to a new congregation (pastor). This discussion will occur in the upcoming months at monthly committee meetings.
2. Committees are formed based on the four key principles and make recommendations for program/project implementation funding based on data analysis and outcome research presented to the AID team.
3. Each member must serve on at least one committee. The Site Coordinator will sit on each committee. There will be a chairperson for each committee.
4. AID Team selects a chair and co-chair to facilitate the monthly meetings.
5. AID Team develops, follows and updates (as needed) By-Laws to be adopted and approved and follows (ex.)Robert's Rule of Order.
6. AID team members will vote on approving a resident-driven community project in the annual program funding application.

Weed and Seed Committees:

1. LECTF (Law Enforcement)
2. Safety (Community Policing)
3. Prevention, Intervention and Treatment  
Health and Human Service subcommittee  
Youth Development subcommittee
4. Neighborhood Restoration

Collaborative programming goals and objectives include:

1. Utilize a comprehensive approach which focuses on improving the overall quality of life in the target area by aiding the reduction of crime

2. Increasing employment opportunities
3. Improving upon the existing quality of education
4. Transportation
5. Healthcare
6. Housing stock
7. Critical infrastructure
8. Social services
9. Strengthening family units
10. Enhancing and expanding upon recreation opportunities in the target area

#### Law Enforcement Crime Task Force

This is a component designed to weed out crime and violence particularly violent crime, gang activity, drug trafficking, and drug-related crime. Efforts are directed mainly at identifying, apprehending and prosecuting the most serious criminals in the target area and the surrounding target community.

The Law Enforcement Crime Task Force consists of law enforcement agency personnel that meet to develop, implement and support a strategic plan addressing suppressing crime and recidivism, gun abatement, targeted patrols, drug investigations, and targeted prosecutions in the target area. The committee meets monthly to discuss updates of crime activities, accomplishments and future phases of law enforcement activities with the community. The Community Police Liaison will attend the monthly AID team meeting to discuss and follow follow-up with the law enforcement plan for the target area and how this affects the Revitalization Plan goals and objectives.

Representatives from the following core group of community law enforcement/criminal justice stakeholders are invited at any time to become members of the LECTF. Each member shall submit a memorandum of understanding regarding their commitment and may include: Mayor, Police Chief, County Sheriff, Community Police Liaison, county District Attorney/detectives/probation and parole, County Prison Warden, State police Bureau of Criminal Investigation/Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement/Bureau of Drug Law Enforcement/ Troop and Area Commanders, Bureau of Narcotics Investigation (where appropriate), Attorney General, State Probation and Parole, Federal Prosecutors (where appropriate), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Agency, and United States Attorney's Office.

Members must commit to work in 1) high crime area with open air drug sales, illegal firearms or other criminal conduct of comparable seriousness; and 2) neighborhoods small enough in geographic size to allow the program to concentrate resources and to be effective.

Members must agree to establish an ongoing Crime Task Force, consisting of both local and state law enforcement officers to:

1. Gather criminal intelligence in the target area
2. Conduct undercover narcotics operations in the target area
3. Throughout the investigation the Task Force works to identify target area drug dealers and career criminals

The Site Coordinator will be a member of the LECTF. The Community Police Liaison facilitates and coordinates the LECTF.

#### Community Policing/Safety

The Community Policing/Safety Committee seeks to support law enforcement operations by serving as a bridge between the weeding and seeding components thus engaging the community by inspiring trust and respect between

the Police Department and the target area residents. They will inspire dialogue with target area residents to solve crime problems through a systematic process that addresses the underlying causes of crime.

The membership is open at all times to any resident that resides in the target area or any person with a vested interest in the target area. They meet monthly to address the goals set forth in the Revitalization Plan addressing new issues as they arise and developing programming and initiatives that address crime concerns, nuisance concerns, blight, graffiti, and block watch and any neighborhood-based training program.

This committee is facilitated and coordinated by a chairperson (the Community and Police Liaison) who is responsible for reporting monthly to the AID Team and the Law Enforcement Crime Task Force. The Community Police Liaison is a member of the local police force with a position of sergeant and/or above and has Act 120 certification. The Site Coordinator is a member of the Safety Committee.

*Focus:* Community activities that encourage community mobilization.

*Goal:* Increasing police visibility and developing cooperative relationships between police officers and target area residents.

#### Prevention Intervention and Treatment

##### Health and Human Services Subcommittee

This sub-committee falls under the guidelines of *Prevention Intervention and Treatment* and seeks to enhance protective factors while reducing risks thus promoting wholesome behavior that will lead to good health, well being and personal success. They are involved with delivering accessible opportunities that encourage lifelong learning and development to improve the quality of life and tenure of target area residents through collaborative relationships and community support. The positive and protective atmosphere they seek to create will assure that crime and violence cannot survive. They link law enforcement entities to the community by engaging social service agencies, the private sector and the community to be supportive of their goal.

The subcommittee continuously recruits new partners and funding opportunities to support their mission and the goals set forth in the Revitalization Plan.

*Risk factors to be addressed:*

1. Economic deprivation
2. Family management problems
3. Early academic failure increasing the likelihood that a child will develop health and behavior problems in adolescence.
4. Unsafe practices in adolescence: underage alcohol/drug abuse, teen pregnancy.
5. Lack of affordable healthcare or lack of access to healthcare and mental healthcare.
6. Recidivism, re-entry issues.

*Protective factors to be used during asset building programming:*

1. Strengthening individual positive characteristics
2. Family bonding
3. Pro-active adults concerned about their community-hope
4. Healthy beliefs
5. Clear standards

Goals: Program delivery to meet the needs of the target area as they arise. Enhanced development of a Safe Haven (Easton Area Community Center) led by a chairperson elected by the committee members. Chairperson is a member of the AID team and attends the monthly AID Team meetings.

#### Prevention Intervention and Treatment

##### Youth Development Sub-Committee

This sub-committee also falls under the guidelines of *Prevention Intervention and Treatment* and seeks to enhance protective factors specifically for youth and their immediate families while reducing risks thus promoting wholesome behavior that will lead to good health, well being and personal success. They are involved with delivering accessible opportunities that encourage lifelong learning and development to improve the quality of life and tenure of these identified individuals through collaborative relationships and community support. The positive and protective atmosphere they seek to create will assure that crime and violence cannot survive. They link law enforcement entities to the community by engaging social service agencies, the private sector and the community to be supportive of their goal.

The subcommittee continuously recruits new partners and funding opportunities to support their mission and the goals set forth in the Revitalization Plan.

##### *Risk Factors:*

1. Community violence, gang recruitment at an early age.
2. Family management problems, language barriers
3. Early initiation of the problem behaviors.
4. Detachment of youth from the community.
5. Transportation barriers.

##### *Protective factors:*

1. Pro-active youth concerned about their community-hope/community-based youth and family service agencies
2. Easton Area School District
3. Concerned proactive adult neighbors willing to commit to projects/activities
4. Green movement-environmental engagement/attach youth to community/local issues

##### *Goals:*

1. Provide age appropriate and developmentally challenging recreation and leisure activities in a supportive and safe environment.
  - Prepare youth for lifelong success through educational initiatives
  - Engage families/bonding
  - Engage youth in their community, build attachment opportunities
  - Development of a Safe Haven

Led by a Chairperson elected by the subcommittee members. Chairperson is a member of the AID Team and attends the AID Team meetings monthly.

##### Neighborhood Restoration

This committee seeks to improve and revitalize the economic and social conditions of the target area through revitalization strategies that include expanding the vitality of the community which helps to keep crime and disorder from thriving. Neighborhood Revitalization can be achieved only by coordinating federal, state, local and private

sector resources. Strategies focus on improvements to the housing stock and physical environment of the neighborhood. This includes stabilizing/upgrading housing conditions and providing a balanced mix of housing opportunities for all ages and income groups with special focus in increasing owner-occupied units and landlord accountability through education and outreach.

Objectives:

1. Improve property maintenance.
2. Restrict conversions, encourage deconversions.
3. Promote owner occupancy.
4. Ensure off-street parking.
5. Increase "green space" and "green space"-increasing programs
6. Support new enterprise development and sole-proprietorships.
7. Assure adequate lighting.
8. Assure access to services, i.e., garbage collection and recycling

Goals:

1. Restore target area infrastructure i.e., neighborhood grocery store and bank, job center, safe haven
2. Accessible transportation system that meets the needs of the residents
3. Affordable, adequate housing stock
4. Lead Abatement Program
5. Blighted property identification and reduction
6. Graffiti identification and removal
7. Code enforcement system
8. Landlord Association
9. Tenant Association
10. West Ward welcome sign area

The chairperson of the Neighborhood Restoration committee is elected by the members of the committee. The Chairperson is a member of the AID Team and attends monthly AID Team meetings.

### III. The Plan

*Vision Statement:*

Following the PA Weed and Seed Program model the Assistance for Impact Delegation (AID)Team is in the final stages of reorganization. The team moved quickly to summarize the issues and formulate the focus statement to serve as the foundation for the effort. Through intensive neighborhood meetings and collaborative information from service organizations from all levels, positive and negative issues have risen to the top. The primary quality of life issues are:

1. Safety / reduction of crime
2. Reattachment of Youth to their community
3. Health & Human Services
4. Economic Vitality

Matrix 1 details the findings of each committee in contributing to this overall vision within each of the quality of life arenas. Each committee is formatted to present their focus statement as an issue directed subset of the AID Team's Vision Statement. Primary objectives, the variables involved, data assessed, resources identified and finally recommendations pertaining to the particular quality of life issue are presented.

**Matrix 1: Weed and Seed AID Team – Issues Assessment Summary**

#	Positive Factors / Resources	(Q)	#	Negative Factors / Issues	(Q)
1	Easton Police Officers	LE	1	Absentee Landlords	NR / LE
2	W&S Community Police Officer	CP	2	Drug Dealers	NR / LE
3	School District Police Officers	PIT/LE	3	Property Vandalism / Graffiti	NR / LE
4	School Resource Officer	PIT/CP	4	Availability of Illegal Drugs	LE/CP/PIT
5	Graffiti Removal Program	LE/NR	5	Deterioration of the Family Unit	PIT
6	VIPS Program	CP	6	Affordable Child Care – Title 20	PIT
7	Block Watch	CP	7	Lack of Primary Care Physicians	PIT
8	Guardian Angels	CP	8	Availability of Affordable Insurance	PIT
9	Saturation Patrols	LE	9	Under Utilizing Community & Social Service Supports	PIT
10	Trigger Lock Operations	LE	10	Gangs	LE / PIT
11	Easton Area Academy	PIT	11	Truancy	LE / PIT
12	PAL (Police Athletic League)	PIT	12	Crime	LE / PIT
13	Safe Passages/Safe Havens Program	CP	13	Transient Tenants	NR / LE
14	Not In Our Neighborhoods	CP	14	High School Dropouts	PIT
15	Easton Public Library	PIT	15	Lack of Single-Family Dwellings	NR
16	Easton Area Community Center (Safe Haven)	PIT	16	Code Violations	NR
17	Two Rivers Dental Van	PIT	17	Exterior / Interior Lead Based Paint	PIT / NR
18	Affordable Housing	NR	18	Parking / Transportation Issues	NR / CP
19	Good Housing Construction	NR	19	Property Neglect	NR/LE/PIT
20	Historic Architecture	NR	20	Need for Beautification (trees)	NR
21	Direct Access to Route 22	NR	21	Traffic Issues, Identified streets	LE / NR

22	Pedestrian Friendly	NR	22	Centralized Physical Plant for a Weed & Seed Coordination & Service Center	LE/CP/PIT
23	Recycle Program	NR	23	Unmaintained Streets / Vacant Lots	LE / NR
24	Opportunity for New Business Growth	NR	24	Codes Enforcement	NR / LE
25	Potential Commercial Corridor / Blvd on Northampton Street	NR	25	Economic Hardship	PIT / LE
26	Very Good Restaurants / Pubs	NR	26	Few Business Owners	NR
27	Mass Transit Routes	NR	27	Unemployment / Underemployment	NR
28	Old Mill Area (13 <sup>th</sup> Street) Redevelopment Possibilities	NR	28	Poverty	LE / NR
29	Small Business Owners (retail and in-home)	NR	29	Lack of Entertainment & Cultural Facilities	NR
30	Pharmacy	NR	30	Single, Uneducated Parent	PIT
31	Anchor / Long-Standing Businesses	NR	31	Lack of Transitional Housing Supports	PIT / LE
32	Playgrounds	PIT	32	Environmentally Hazardous Areas (13 <sup>th</sup> St Getty/Rasperry Park/Jefferson Housing Development)	NR/LE/PIT
33	Bushkill Creek /Natural Recreation Area	NR	33	Playground Equipment in Disrepair	NR/SAF/CP
34	Pocket Parks	NR	34	Loss of Community Parochial Schools	PIT
35	Green Space	NR	35	Northampton County Prison	LE/CP/PIT
36	Historical Landmarks and Walking Trails	NR / PIT	36	Lack of Resident Participation Community Activities / Events	NR/PIT
37	County Government Center	OTHER			
38	Social Service Agencies	PIT			

39	Number of Native / Long-Term Residents in West Ward	NR			
40	Deconversion Initiative	NR			
41	Ethnic Diversity	PIT			
42	Easton Area School District /12st School Location (currently redistricting)	PIT			
43	Cottingham Stadium	PIT			
44	EASD Connect Ed Community Program	PIT			
45	Faith Based Community Organizations	PIT			

#### IV. Resource Mapping

*Matrix 2:* Easton Weed and Seed – AID Team Resource Mapping

Organization	Contact Information (Person / Title / Address/ Phone / Email)	Service Area	In Target Area
ACJC Day Care Center, Inc	673 Northampton Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.252.2111		X
Adult Skills Quest	Judy Brunswick, Director / Tutor 3554 Southwood Drive Easton, PA 18045 (P) 610.258.3667 (E) pbruns5839@aol.com		
St. Luke's Addiction Treatment services	158-160 3 <sup>RD</sup> Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.252.6324		
St Luke's Health Center	Northampton Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.559.2175		
Guardian Angels	Ken & Kelly Souders 901 Washington Street Easton, PA 18042	West Ward	X
Boys & Girls Club of Easton, Inc.	Dean Young, Executive Director 1101 Northampton Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.253.8564 (E) star@fast.net	City of Easton	X
City of Easton – Bureau of Fire	Chief John Bass (P) 610.250.6670	City of Easton	X
VIPS	Lee Wisner 133 So. 4 <sup>th</sup> Street, Apt e-9 Easton, PA 610.258.7855 Whiz3431@yahoo.com	City of Easton	X
City of Easton – Bureau of Codes	Cindy Cawley Chief Code Administrator (P) 610.250.6724	City of Easton	
City of Easton – Bureau of Police	Larry Palmer Chief of Police (P) 610.250.6630 John Remaley Community Police Division (P) 610.250.6779	City of Easton	
City of Easton – Recreation Department	Eric Daley Recreation Coordinator (P) 610.250.6711 / 610.250.6710	City of Easton	
Easton Area Community Center	Anita D. Mitchell, Executive Director 901 Washington Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.253.7242 (E) eacc@ptd.net	City of Easton	X

Organization	Contact Information (Person / Title / Address/ Phone / Email)	Service Area	In Target Area
Easton Area Neighborhood Center	Terry A. Roman, Executive Director (E) troman@Eastonanc.org Deborah Brown, Program Coordinator (E) dbrown@Eastonanc.org 902 Philadelphia Road Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.253.4253	City of Easton	
Easton Area Public Library	Jennifer L. Stocker, Director 515 Church Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.258.2917 x310 (E) jenns@eastonpl.org	City of Easton	
Easton Area School District	TBA - Asst. Superintendent of Public Schools 811 Northampton Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.250.2400 x 35032	City of Easton	X
Easton Block Watch	Brian Otto, President 133 S. Fourth Street, Apt E-9 Easton, PA 18042 (P) 619.258.7855 (E) Whiz3431@yahoo.com	City of Easton	X
Easton Housing Authority	Gene Pambianchi, Executive Director 157 South Fourth Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.258.0806 (E) hace@eastonhousing.org	City of Easton	
Family Connection Jessica R. Dreistadt, Executive Director	Easton Area School District 1221 Northampton Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.829.5819 x 35075 (E) dreistadtj@eastonsd.org	City of Easton	X
Family YMCA of Easton, Phillipsburg & Vicinity	Nicholas A. Ciambone, CEO (E) nick@familyymca.org Lori Metz, COO (E) lori@familyymca.org 1225 W. Lafayette Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.258.6158	City of Easton	
Lafayette College - Landis Community Outreach Center	Bonnie Winfield, PhD, Executive Director Landis Outreach Center - Lafayette College Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.330.5813 (E) winfie@lafayette.edu	City of Easton	
State Theater for the Arts	Shelley Brown	City of Easton	
Legacy Ministries	Rodger Smeall 120 So 12 <sup>th</sup> Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.923.8380	City of Easton	X
First Evangelical Congregational Church	Paul Barber 28 N 10 <sup>th</sup> Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.258.7606	City of Easton	X

Organization	Contact Information (Person / Title / Address/ Phone / Email)	Service Area	In Target Area
Iglesias De Dios, Es Shaddai	26 N. 10 <sup>th</sup> Street Easton, Pa 18042	City of Easton	X
Temple Covenant of Peace	15 <sup>th</sup> & Northampton Streets Easton, PA 18042	City of Easton	X
E.P.M.A (Muslim)	10 <sup>th</sup> & Lehigh Streets Easton, PA 18042	City of Easton	X
Open Bible Evangelical Church of God in Christ	14 <sup>th</sup> & Lehigh Streets Easton, PA 18042	City of Easton	X
St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church	9 <sup>th</sup> & Lehigh Streets Easton, PA 18042	City of Easton	X
Temple Covenant of Peace	15 <sup>th</sup> & Northampton Streets Easton, PA 18042	City of Easton	X
Green Pastures Community Church	15 <sup>th</sup> & Northampton Streets Easton, PA 18042	City of Easton	X
Olivet Presbyterian	12 <sup>th</sup> & Northampton Streets Easton, PA 18042	City of Easton	X
Iglesias De Cristo Elim	12 <sup>th</sup> & Northampton Streets Easton, PA 18042	City of Easton	X
The Salvation Army	Cpt. Isiah Allen 1110 Northampton Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.258.9531	City of Easton	X
Congregation Beth El Gibor	1110 Northampton Street Easton, PA 18042	City of Easton	X
Church of God by Faith	Pastor Michael Brown 665 Walnut Street Easton, PA 18042	City of Easton	X

Holy Temple of Easton	824 Ferry Street Easton, PA 18042	City of Easton	X
Iglesias De Christo Pentecostal	12 <sup>th</sup> & Spring Garden Streets Easton, PA 18042	City of Easton	X
First Moravian Church	10 <sup>th</sup> & Bushkill Streets Easton, PA 18042	City of Easton	X
Christ Lutheran Church	1100 Ferry Street Easton, PA 18042	City of Easton	X
Hope Unseen	Terrance Miller 649 Ferry Street Easton, PA 18042	City of Easton	X
Two Rivers Health & Wellness Foundation	Paul Brunswick 1101 Northampton Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.253.7400	City of Easton	X
Pinebrook Services	1101 Northampton Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.559.8151	City of Easton	X

Organization	Contact Information (Person / Title / Address/ Phone / Email)	Service Area	In Target Area
West Ward Neighborhood Partnership	Gary Berstch 668 Northampton Street Easton, Pa 18042 6105150891	City of Easton	X
Safe Harbor Shelter	536 Bushkill Drive Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.258.5540	City of Easton	
Holcomb Behavioral Health	929 Northampton Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.330.9862	City of Easton	X
Two Rivers Area Chamber of Commerce	158 A Northampton Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.841.5852	City of Easton	
Easton Interfaith Council		City of Easton	
School of Natural Learning	Cathy Stoops, Executive Director PO Box 1905 Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.905.7842	City of Easton	X
Valley Counseling Group	643 Ferry Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.250.0300	City of Easton	X
Pastoral Counseling Service	12 <sup>th</sup> & Northampton Streets Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.253.5829	City of Easton	X
ProJeCt of Easton	Janice Komisor, Executive Director 320 Ferry Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.258.4361	City of Easton	
Third Street Alliance for Woman and Children	Judy Mattheson 41 N. Third Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.258.6271	City of Easton	
Care net	Sharon Grant 1101 Northampton Street, Suite 202 Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.559.9327	City of Easton	X
Valley Youth House	Patricia McGarry 1615 Northampton Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.252.2681	City of Easton	X
Easton Area Senior Center	42 Center Square Easton, PA 18042	City of Easton	
Easton Senior Citizens Housing	127 So. Fourth Street Easton, PA 18042	City of Easton	
Easton WIC Clinic	101 Larry Holmes Drive Easton, PA 18042 (P) 1.800.942.9467	City of Easton	
Weller Health Education Center	325 Northampton Street Easton, PA 18042	City of Easton	
The Easton Home	Presbyterian Homes 1022 Northampton Street Easton, PA 18042	City of Easton	X

Organization	Contact Information (Person / Title / Address/ Phone / Email)	Service Area	In Target Area
Social Security Administration	200 Ferry Street Easton, PA 18045	City of Easton	
County Council – District 2 J. Michael Dowd, Council Vice President	Courthouse, Third Floor (P) 610.559.3195	City of Easton	
District Attorney John Morganelli	Courthouse, Third Floor (P) 610.559.3024	City of Easton	
Magisterial District 03-2-05 Judge Gay L. Elwell	6 So. Third Street, Fourth Floor Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.258.5900	City of Easton	
Magisterial District 03-2-12 Judge Michael Koury, Jr. Esq.	1710 Butler Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.258.4640	City of Easton	
Domestic Relations	126 S. Union Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.253.3566	Northampton County	X
Juvenile Detention	Juvenile Justice Center 650 Ferry Street Easton, Pa 18042 (P) 610.559.6850	Northampton County	X
Children, Youth and Family	Governor Wolf Building 45 N. Second Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.559.3290	Northampton County	
Drug and Alcohol	Bechtel Building 520 E. Broad Street Bethlehem, PA 18018 (P) 610.997.5800	Northampton County	
Early Intervention	Bechtel Building 520 E. Broad Street Bethlehem, PA 18018 (P) 610.974.7511	Northampton County	
Health Choices	Bechtel Building 520 E. Broad Street Bethlehem, PA 18018 (P) 610.997.5854	Northampton County	
Emergency Services	24 Hour Crisis Hotline (P) 610.252.9060	Northampton County	
Information Services	Courthouse, Second Floor (P) 610.559.3120	Northampton County	
Mental Health	Bechtel Building 520 E. Broad Street Bethlehem, PA 18018 (P) 610.974.7555	Northampton County	
Mental Retardation (Development Programs)	Bechtel Building 520 E. Broad Street Bethlehem, PA 18018 (P) 610.974.7500	Northampton County	
Public Defender	Courthouse, Basement (P) 610.559.3040	Northampton County	

Organization	Contact Information (Person / Title / Address/ Phone / Email)	Service Area	In Target Area
Veteran's Affairs	Governor Wolf Building 45 N. Second Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.559.3199	Northampton County	
Agricultural Extension	Greystone Building 14 Gracedale Avenue Nazareth, PA 18064 (P) 610.746.1970	Northampton County	
Consumer Protection Hotline PA Attorney General's Office	(P) 1.800.441.2555	Northampton County	
Northampton County Crisis Intervention Services	45 No. Second Street Easton, PA 18042	Northampton County	
Northampton County Drug and Alcohol Division	684 Washington Street Easton, PA 18042	Northampton County	X
Northampton County TASC	Treatment Trends 158-160 So. Third Street Easton, PA 18042	Northampton County	
Northampton County Area Agency on Aging	Governor Wolf Building 45 No. Second Street Easton, PA 18042	Northampton County	
Department of Public Welfare	201 Larry Holmes Drive Easton, PA (P) 610.250.1700	Northampton County	X
Northampton County Government Center, Dept. of Community and Economic Development	(P) 610.559.3200	Northampton County	X
Northampton County Sherriff's Office	Jeffrey Hallbecker Courthouse, Basement (P) 610.559.3200	Northampton County	
Northampton County Adult Probation	Criminal Administration Building 105 S. Union Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.559.6800	Northampton County	X
Northampton County Juvenile Probation Shelly Bundrow	Juvenile Justice Center 650 Ferry Street Easton, Pa 18042 (P) 610.559.6880	Northampton County	X
Northampton County Prison and Corrections	666 Walnut St. Easton, PA 18042 Todd Buskirk-Warden Arnold Matos-Volunteer Services Coordinator	Northampton County	X
Northampton County Dental Initiative	1101 Northampton St Easton, PA 18042 Phone: (866) 903-9104	Northampton County	X
Northampton County Assistance Office	201 Larry Holmes Drive Easton, PA 18042-0010 (P) 610.250.1719	Northampton County	
Crimes Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley	Suzanne M. Beck-Hummel, Executive Director Stacy Beers Bilock, Assistant Executive Director (P) 610.250.6313 (Easton) (P) 610.437.6610 (Allentown) (E) cvclv@enter.net (W) www.cvclv.org	Northampton County	

Organization	Contact Information (Person / Title / Address/ Phone / Email)	Service Area	In Target Area
Colonial Intermediate Unit 20	Dr. Charlene Brennan, Executive Director 6 Danforth Drive Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.252.5550 (E) 610.252.5740	Northampton County	
Easton Hospital	250 S. 21 <sup>st</sup> Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.250.4573	Northampton County	
Northampton County State Health Center Pennsylvania Department of Health	1600 Northampton Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.250.1825	Northampton County	X
Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA)	3 W. Broad Street Bethlehem, PA 18018 (P) 610.776.7433	Northampton County	
Meals on Wheels of Northampton County	4240 Fritch Drive Bethlehem, PA 18020 (P) 610.691.1030	Northampton County	
Northampton Community College	3835 Green Pond Road Bethlehem, PA 18020 (P) 610.861.5300	Northampton County	
AIDS Services Center	Elizabeth Mammis (P) 610.974.8701 (E) lizmas@entermail.net	Lehigh Valley	
ALERT Partnership	Diana Heckman, Executive Director Michael Adams, Program Manager For Comm. Org Anthony Nerino, Prevention Program Manager 17 <sup>th</sup> & Chew Streets Allentown, PA 18105 (P) 610.402.2583 (E) dianaheckman@lvh.com	Lehigh Valley	
American Red Cross of the Greater Lehigh Valley	2200 Avenue A Bethlehem, PA 18017 (P) 610.865.4400 Ext. 246	Lehigh Valley	
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lehigh Valley	Harry James Irvin, VP of Programs 2906 William Penn Highway Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.250.0100 (E) bbbs@bbbslv.org (E) hirvin@bbbslv.org	Lehigh Valley	
Center for Humanistic Change	Debra Geiger, Executive Director Karen Korpics, Program Coordinator Christy Yerk-Smith, Program Supervisor Valerie McKay, Program Supervisor 2200 Avenue A, Suite 106 Bethlehem, PA 18017 (P) 484.821.0375 (E) dgeiger@theCHC.org	Lehigh Valley	

Organization	Contact Information (Person / Title / Address/ Phone / Email)	Service Area	In Target Area
Child Care Information Services, Inc.	Betsy Gilgoff, Executive Director 2200 W. Broad Street Bethlehem, PA 18018-3200 (P) 610.419.4500 (E) broberts@ccisinc.org	Lehigh Valley	
Communities In School	Jennifer Bromwell 22 S. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street / 1451 Northampton Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.923.8240 / 610.330.9424	Lehigh Valley	
Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley	Alan Jennings 1337 E. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street Bethlehem, PA 18015 6106915620	Lehigh Valley	
Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber Of Commerce	158 Northampton Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.330.9177	Lehigh Valley	
Lehigh County Community Mental Health Center	226 Northampton Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.330.0489	Lehigh County	
Lehigh Valley Career Link/Private Industry Council	72 N. Second Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.252.7344	Lehigh Valley	
Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living	435 Allentown Drive Allentown, PA 18109 (P) 610.770.9781	Lehigh Valley	
Lehigh Valley Child Care, Inc	Susan M. Williams, Executive Director 1550 Hanover Avenue Allentown, PA 18109-2354 (P) 610.820.5333 x 209 (E) swilliams@lvchildcare.org	Lehigh Valley	
Lehigh Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau	840 Hamilton Street, Suite 200 Allentown, PA 18101 (P) 610.882.9200	Lehigh Valley	
Penn State Cooperative Extension of Lehigh County	Lehigh County Agricultural Center 4184 Dorney Park Road, Room 104 Allentown, PA 18104 (P) 610.391.9840	Lehigh County	
Project Child, The Child Abuse Prevention Coalition of the Lehigh Valley	2200 W. Broad Stree Bethlehem, PA 18018 (P) 610.419.4500 Ext. 229	Lehigh Valley	
United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley	2200 Avenue A, 3rd floor, Bethlehem, PA 18017 (610)-758-8010	Lehigh Valley	
Bureau of Blindness & Visual Services	(P) 610.787.6176	State	
Cancer Information	(P) 1.800.423.6237	State	
Center for Workforce Information & Analysis	(P) 1.877.493.3282	State	
Children's Home of Easton	Gregg Dowty, Executive Director 2000 S. 25 <sup>th</sup> Street Easton, PA 18042 (P) 610.258.2831 (E) Gregg@thechildrenshome.org	State	

Organization	Contact Information (Person / Title / Address/ Phone / Email)	Service Area	In Target Area
Department of Environmental Protection (Bethlehem Office)	4530 Bath Pike Bethlehem, PA 18017 (P) 610.861.2070	State	
Department of Labor & Industry	(P) 610.787.5279	State	
Emergency (After hours, weekends & holidays)	(P) 610.737.5349	State	
Governor's Advisory Commission on African American Affairs	(P) 610.772.5085 or 1.877.374.0222	State	
Governor's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs	(P) 610.783.3877 or 1.800.233.1407	State	
Governor's Information Line	(P) 1.800.932.0784	State	
Healthy Baby Line	(P) 1.800.986.2229	State	
Healthy Kids Line	(P) 1.800.986.5437	State	
HMO Consumer complaint/Grievance Line	(P) 1.888.466.2787	State	
Home Health Hotline	(P) 1.800.222.0989	State	
Insurance Department CHIP/Adult Basic Consumer Information	(P) 610.705.6830 (P) 1.877.881.6388	State	
IRS Food Stamp Hotline	(P) 1.800.227.4914	State	
Justice Network (JNET) Pennsylvania	(P) 610.705.0760	State	
Labor Law Compliance	(P) 610.787.4763 or 1.800.932.0665	State	
Lead Hotline	(P) 1.800.440.5323	State	
Nursing Care Facilities Complaint Hotline	(P) 1.800.254.5164	State	
Office for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing	(P) (V/TTY) 610.783.4912	State	
Office of Equal Opportunity	(P) 610.787.1182	State	
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation	(P) 610.787.5244	State	
Pennsylvania State Police	Troop M Headquarters 2930 Airport Road Bethlehem, PA 18017 (P) 610.861.2026	State	
Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board	(P) 610.772.4966	State	
Poison Control Center Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	34 <sup>th</sup> & Civic Center Blvd. Philadelphia, PA 19104 (P) 1.800.222.1222 (poison emergency)	State	
Public Utility Comm. Choice Electric Gas Phone	(P) 1.888.782.3228	State	
Special Kids Network Systems of Care Line	(P) 1.800.986.4550	State	
State Health Line	(P) 1.877.724.3258	State	
State Workers' Insurance Fund	(P) 570.963.4635	State	
Tobacco Quitline	(P) 1.877.724.1090	State	
UC Child Support Intercept Program	(P) 610.787.4789	State	
UC Claims Information Center	(P) 610.783.3140	State	
UC Employer Services	(P) 1.866.223.4718	State	
Veterans Employment & Training	(P) 610.783.2631	State	
Workers' Compensation	(P) 610.783.5421	State	

**EASTON WEED AND SEED  
5 YEAR (Sustainability) PLAN  
YEARS 2009-2014**

**YEAR I**

July 2009-June 2010

*All committees will have the responsibility to review their mission statement annually and update it if need be. They also will review goals and objectives outlined in the Revitalization Plan on a monthly basis and reporting where they are at and where they need to be, making adjustments as needed.*

**AID Team  
(Year 1 only)**

1. By-Laws (include ad-hoc committee for emergency decisions) review and update if needed.
2. Mission statement review/update if needed
3. AID Team membership list update/in line with PCCD New Approach
4. Protocol for reviewing (future) grant proposals (RFP's) that are put out for bid, i.e., graduate programs off the Weed and Seed funding stream at a percentage rate each successive year (?)
5. Template and protocol for site visits/quarterly program monitoring.
6. Monthly Revitalization Updates at meetings.

**Law Enforcement**

See attached

**Community Policing/Safety**

1. Expand Volunteers In Police Service Program (VIPS)/Video Monitoring, Quality of Life Issues.
2. Assign officer to community policing patrols to compliment weed and seed programming.
3. Hold Cops and Kids within EASD.
4. Expand the Safe Passages Safe Havens Program to include wall mural at Centennial Park, updated brochures to include statement of liability release and new volunteers.
5. Include report at Safety Committee meeting on abandoned vehicles removed from the target area.

**Prevention Intervention and Treatment  
Health and Human Services sub-committee**

1. Develop a Mosaic page specific to this committee.
2. Include Health and Human Service page on the Weed and Seed website to include information such as senior information, health programs/insurance alternatives, prescription alternative programs, mental health assistance, nutrition and exercise programming.
3. Update the Health Directory/Spanish version as well.
4. Begin discussion of re-entry initiatives and collaborations to support this.
5. Children's Resource Guide
6. Monitor the DEP situation at the GettyMart/13<sup>th</sup> street.

**Youth Development sub-committee**

1. Develop an action plan in response to needs identified in the community profile and revitalization plan as well as any new emerging community needs (corrective action plans for both EAHS and EAMS) involving school district staff and parents/the community in discussions and decision making.
2. Discussions proposing a Youth Development Coalition.

3. Propose program(s)/or weed and seed involvement to engage students in the individual schools (all levels) that would help to re-attach them to the community involving school district staff in discussions and decision making.
4. Letter of interest (beginning of the 2009-2010 school year) to all new building principals and upper level administration due to the reallocation of staff/Corrective Action plan. Introduce Weed and Seed and what it has to offer the district to help students.
5. Leverage additional resources to support positive activities for at-risk youth

### **Neighborhood Restoration**

1. Formalize the neighborhood restoration committee securing a coordinator/set meeting dates and times/set goals. Report on any new businesses opening in the target area, blighted properties that could be demolished or revitalized other community assets and opportunities.
2. Approach Easton Area High School SAVE Club, Key Club and World Languages Clubs to have representatives join the committee.
3. Organize block clean-ups monthly or quarterly throughout the neighborhoods.
4. Promote the "broom brigade", volunteers to help keep the streets clean.
5. Support the formulation of a Weed and Seed office located in the West Ward, scout possible properties for rehabilitation/transformation.
6. Support city of Easton efforts to encourage residents who are not recycling to begin recycling. Provide assistance, give them a recycling can if needed (door to door campaign, weed and seed to purchase recycle cans and hand them out if residents need them/recycle stickers/alternative).
7. Encourage residents to utilize pocket parks and green-space for gardening/beautification/vegetables (food consumption/neighborhood sharing).
8. Compose and deliver a letter of interest to the Community and Economic Development Dept., Codes, and Planning Depts. To join monthly NR Committee meetings.
9. Compose a letter of welcome to new move-ins, present to city for inclusion in packets for new neighbors.
10. Identify blighted properties, nuisance properties and new businesses and report at each meeting.
11. Employment assistance/resume building classes.
12. Life skills programs to foster good tenants.
13. Monitor the DEP situation at 13<sup>th</sup> street Gettymart.

### **YEAR II**    July 2010- June 2011

*All committees during this year will be responsible for updating the Community Profile with statistics as they relate to their individual committees using data from the 2010 census when it becomes available.*

### **Law Enforcement**

See attached

### **Community Policing**

1. Expand/recruit –VIPS
2. Add 10 new Block watch captains
3. Involve officers on bike in 8 more target area events than the previous years.
4. Expand community based policing by applying for funding outside weed and seed
5. Hold Cops and Kids program at Shawnee Middle School

### **Prevention Intervention and Treatment Health and Human Services sub-committee**

1. Update areas of the community profile as it relates to the committee at large using the 2010 census data.
2. Form at least 2 new community partnerships.
3. Reassess goals of the Revitalization Plan as it relates to the committee at large.
4. Fatherhood Program development
5. Support for children with incarcerated parents.

#### **Youth Development sub-committee**

1. Form at least 2 new community partnerships.
2. Continue and expand partnership with Paxinosa PTA, EAMS PTA. EAHS PTA
3. Continue to involve school district staff/parents in discussions and decision making
4. Propose the beginning stages of a Service Learning Curriculum with Easton School District and Lafayette College.
5. Propose a Community History curriculum to Easton Area School District at all school levels (K-4, 5/6, 7/8, 9-12).

#### **Neighborhood Restoration**

1. Develop a list of funding sources/loans/grants that available to new homebuyers (considering purchasing a home in the Target Area and/or making renovations).
2. Community Partner/TBD (Lafayette College?) Conduct class/series of classes for a for 1<sup>st</sup> time homebuyers to empower them to purchasing a home in the Target Area.
3. Continue development of the recycling program. Recruit volunteers to help at the recycling center. Collaborate with Juvenile Probation to assign recycling collection to youth on probation in need of service hours in lieu of repayment.
4. Continue and enhance all initiatives begun previous years.
5. Seek funding from other sources to use for small group or individual neighborhood projects.
6. Research/Survey financial institutions that might have an interest in opening a branch in the West Ward.
7. Tax Help group partnering with a financial Institution.
8. Lead survey of homes painted before 1979.
9. Form at least 2 new community partnerships.

#### **YEAR III   July 2011- June 2012**

#### **Law Enforcement**

See Attached

#### **Community Policing**

1. Expand VIPS program
2. Add 5 new Block watch captains
3. Involve officers on bike in 3 more target area events than the previous years.
4. Expand community based policing by applying for funding outside weed and seed.
5. Hold Cops and Kids program at Shawnee Middle School.

#### **Prevention Intervention and Treatment Health and Human Services and Youth Development sub-committees**

1. Form at least 2 new community partnerships.
2. Address issues as they are made apparent through the community profile and addressed in the Revitalization Plan.

**Neighborhood Restoration**

1. Expand NR committee to provide opportunities for rehabilitation loans.
2. Program to familiarize residents with housing codes, and advocacy for violations to be corrected in a timely manner.
3. Form at least 2 new community partnerships
4. Address concerns as they arise in the community
5. Leverage new sources of funding.

**YEAR IV**    July 2012-June 2013

**Law Enforcement**  
See attached  
**Community Policing**

1. Expand/recruit VIPS
2. Add 5 new Block watch captains
3. Involve officers on bike in 3 more target area events than the previous years.
4. Expand community based policing by applying for funding outside weed and seed
5. Hold Cops and Kids program at Shawnee Middle

**Prevention Intervention and Treatment**  
**Health and Human Services and Youth Development sub-committees**

1. Form at least 2 new community partnerships
2. Address issues as they are identified in the community profile and addressed in the Revitalization Plan

**Neighborhood Restoration**

1. Establish collaborative partnerships (3) with private and public agencies to support the mission.
2. Address community concerns as they arise
3. Leverage new sources of funding (2)

**YEAR V**    July 2013-June 2014

**Law Enforcement**  
See attached

**Community Policing**

1. Expand/recruit VIPS
2. Add 5 new Block-watch captains
3. Involve officers on bike in 3 more target area events than the previous years.
4. Expand community based policing by applying for funding outside weed and seed
5. Hold Cops and Kids program at Shawnee Middle

**Prevention Intervention and Treatment**

### **Health and Human Services and Youth Development sub-committees**

1. Form at least 2 new community partnerships
2. Address issues as they are identified in the community profile and addressed in the Revitalization Plan.

### **Neighborhood Restoration**

1. Establish collaborative partnerships (3) with private and public agencies to support the mission.
2. Address community concerns as they arise
3. Leverage new sources of funding (2)

### **Easton Police Department 5 year Plan**

#### **1. Hiring**

Due to the collective bargaining agreement in 2005 with an early retirement incentive offer by the City of Easton several senior officers retired leaving the department at manpower level of 41 sworn officers. This represents a department at 2/3 of its full complement. The department has been hiring new sworn officers since then in an attempt to get back to full strength. We are currently as of April 8, 2009 at 56 sworn police officers with the intention of completing the hiring and training of a complement of 64 sworn officers by year end. The Easton Police department will apply for six officers thru the stimulus incentive COPS Grant to get to this full complement. Due to the early retirement incentive available to eight current officers, hiring and training will continue as needed by any future early retirements.

#### **2. Succession Planning**

Due to the early retirement incentive eight sworn officers are currently eligible to retire by the end of the early retirement incentive currently set to expire on December 31, 2010. Of those eight the Chief, two Captains, three Lieutenants, one Sergeant and one Detective are afforded the opportunity to take advantage of the program. It is therefore critical that the Easton Police Department strives to plan the succession and continuity of the command staff of the department. To that end, the department has sent three ranking officers to the Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command. This includes two Captains and one Lieutenant. We are currently waiting for an appointment of the Lieutenant of Criminal Investigations Section to the FBI National Academy. All Lieutenants have completed POLEX, Pennsylvania Police Executive Command School. All Sergeants have completed the POSIT, Pennsylvania Police Supervisory School. Additionally, two Police Officers who successfully tested and are certified on the Sergeants Civil Service list have completed the POSIT school during this year and we will attempt to get the remaining Officers on the list to the training. The command administrative officers of the department have integrated several Lieutenants and Sergeants into decision making and implementation of various programs and projects to acclimate them to the various job task functions of the administrative staff to prepare them for future advancement. Additional schools and training will be afforded this year and beyond for those midlevel supervisors identified to have particular skills, knowledge and abilities in areas that would suit them for future advancement. This succession planning will be a fluid and perpetual process until the staffing of the department stabilizes beyond the scope of the early retirement incentive.

### **3. New Police Station**

The current facility lacks enough room and is in a location not suited or conducive to an efficiently operated police department. The current location is under an aging parking deck facility which poses problems on several fronts. The department experiences leaks throughout the facility including, but not limited to, contact with electrical fixtures and occasionally on computer equipment. Due to the aging concrete decks directly above the facility acting as the "roof" of the building there are occasionally pieces of concrete falling on areas that only have ceiling tiles as a barrier between the "roof" and personnel and equipment. It is therefore imperative that a new police station be completed as soon as practically and financially possible. Research has been done in an attempt to find a suitable location within the City of Easton, strategically placing a new station where it will be most beneficial to a particular neighborhood. In preparation for the planning of the station the department has sent a Captain and Lieutenant to the International Association of Chiefs of Police School of Police Facility Design. The Captain and Lieutenant will work hand in hand with the architect selected for the project to maximize operational efficiency.

### **4. PLEAC Accreditation**

In 2007 the department achieved accreditation thru the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association. The department must maintain the accredited status by continually monitoring and documenting proofs of compliance over a three year period and be re-evaluated in 2010. The Lieutenant of the Office of Professional Standards will be in command of this project as an ongoing effort. Additionally three other officers, one Captain, one Lieutenant and one patrol officer have attended the PLEAC Accreditation Managers Training this year and may be occasionally, on an as needed basis used to assist the Lieutenant of the Office of Professional Standards to complete this task.

### **5. Integration of Payroll Software Systems**

The department has been attempting to integrate its own payroll software system with that of City Hall for several years in an effort to eliminate duplication of job tasks for payroll clerks and administrators of both entities. This has been a somewhat futile effort on the part of both police and city administration. Despite set backs at various times, some progress has been made towards this goal. Although this item may seem diminutive in the scope of the entire police operation, the current decades old software in the department and the lack of integration with the Cities current software results in a strain on police records department personnel and City Hall payroll personnel. Our attempt will be to maximize efficiency within the police department by continuing to press for this function to be completed.

### **6. Technology Upgrade**

Several notable technology upgrades were completed in 2008 and shall culminate in 2009, a two year process of updating previous technologies within the department and expanding into other areas of technological advancement to be completed this year. These will include mobile data terminals in the patrol vehicles, in car cameras with automatic downloading into a secure digital recording archiving device, installation of the most recent version of Metro Alert RMS system, in-house camera surveillance system, black berries for command and investigative staff, and the BEAST evidence tracking and managing software system. The department is currently researching the potential purchase of handheld portable radios for all officers via a JAG grant currently in the application process additionally the department has recently ordered covert investigative technology for investigators.

The department received a Secure Our School Grant in collaboration with the Easton Area School District, Wilson Borough and the Easton Housing Authority for the placement of video surveillance equipment, lighting and security

equipment in and around the Paxinosa Elementary School Campus. This project is intended to be completed in 2009 but is considered to be the first phase in a proposed multi-phase city wide surveillance program. Additional phases can and will be completed if additional funding sources are appropriated.

The department has applied for two separate grants for the purchase of a Total Station hardware and software package to be used for crime scene documentation and mapping to be used by both criminal investigators and the accident investigation team. Representative Robert Freeman has been assisting the department in this endeavor and we anticipate implementing this piece of equipment upon receipt this year.

Future planning will dove tail with the construction of a new police station by including in that project a Smart Classroom to be utilized by both police and community for training, education and other various programming. The benefit of such a facility at the police department's disposal would create opportunities to host law enforcement training curriculum resulting in free or reduced cost position for our officers.

## **7. Training**

The Easton Police Department has embarked on a rigorous training regiment to enhance the knowledge and professionalism of the department's officers and staff. This regiment will be perpetual in nature and will facilitate any departures of staff due to the early retirement incentive and provide for a baseline of knowledge to maintain the highest level of professionalism obtainable. Having already conducted training sessions in conjunction with the Penn State Justice and Safety Institute in 2008, the department provided training to all officers which was the first department to utilize this program. We will continue an attempt at being on the forefront of law enforcement training working with many agencies and educational institutions on a continual basis. Much of what we have done and will continue to do was mentioned in number two succession planning however there are still many more training opportunities for the department to take advantage of. The department will attempt to fund the training of the Firearms Training Unit and Defensive Tactics instructors to achieve Master Trainer certification to reduce the need to send officers to outside training and also to bring a level of professional competency to the highest standards.

## **8. Community Policing**

In 1999 the Easton Police Department created the Neighborhood Policing Program Division within the department. This community policing division has since been dissolved due to the reduction of sworn officers with the early retirement incentive. The command staff and city administration are currently developing a future plan to reinstitute the neighborhood policing program when we attain our full compliment of sworn police officers. The NPP was extremely successful and is partially responsible for the reduction of serious violent crime that occurred from its inception to date. The planning process for the resurrection of this division is ongoing and will be developed to adapt to today's current crime and quality of life issues. We expect to have the plan fully developed by the end of this year and implement the plan pending completion of hiring and training of the newly hired sworn officers.

In an effort to provide elements of the NPP in the interim, the department will be utilizing various components of the Weed and Seed grant allocation and the CDBG grant allocation to fund programs such as bicycle officers, saturation patrols, warrant service and probation and parole visits. Though these are just a few of the components of the NPP, we view them as necessary and critical in bridging the gap created by the loss of manpower.

## **9. Reduction in Overtime Costs**

The department overtime costs hit a high of \$ 836,154.00 in 2005 due to the loss of manpower because of the early retirement incentive. As the department reaches its normal staffing levels these overtime costs will naturally decrease, however other measures taken by the command staff and mid level managers have and will reduce these costs further. Upon stabilization of the department's workforce overtime costs should be minimized to an acceptable level given the multiple criteria creating overtime. To date, the latter activity and implementation of overtime reduction strategies by the department administration and mid level managers have reduced the amount of overtime to levels lower than previous years when the department was fully staffed.

In the furtherance of this goal, the police union and city and department administrations have agreed to negotiate for 12 hour work shifts for the patrol division. This strategy may be mutually beneficial to the department's goal of reducing normal overtime costs and providing the sworn officers with a work schedule conducive to high morale and more days off. Discussions regarding this 12 hr shift implementation are set to commence shortly.

## **10. Crime Prevention and Serious Crime Reduction Strategy**

The City of Easton experienced a surge of gang related crime in the late 1990's. An influx of gangs, primarily from New York and New Jersey, arrived at that time due to heightened enforcement in New York City and the completion of Route 78 which provides expedient travel to and from the Metropolitan New York and New Jersey cities. In March 2006, the Route 222 Corridor Anti-Gang Initiative, a multi-jurisdictional task force was initiated by then United States District Attorney Patrick Meehan to address the influx of gangs in a six county, seven city area spanning eastern Pennsylvania. The counties included Northampton, Lehigh, Berks, Lancaster, York and Dauphin. The cities included Easton, Bethlehem, Allentown, Reading, Lancaster, York and Harrisburg.

The initiative combines law enforcement agencies at the local, County, State and Federal levels to work cohesively to combat gangs in the corridor. Mayors in each of the City's also formed Mayor's Anti- Gang Task Forces to provide programming for anti-gang initiatives with financial resources provided by the grant. The program has been very successful in the City of Easton with City detectives partnering with F.B.I. agents in Allentown to conduct large scale, gang affiliated drug investigations resulting in several multi offender arrest operations. Many offenders have plead guilty, drawing severe federal prison terms for their crimes.

Tracking gang related crime in Pennsylvania is difficult at best. The Commonwealth does not have a statutory definition or offense related specifically to gangs as most other states do. Via the Route 222 Corridor Anti-Gang Initiative, the Easton Police Department has tracked these offenses in 2007 on a city-wide basis due to the initiative encompassing the entire city. That said, the following statistics were reported for 2007 and 2008 to the anti gang initiative:

The police department's response to the increase to the peak of serious violent crime in the mid 1990's has been to implement programs specifically developed to address these issues. Several of the programs involve collaboration and partnering with various federal, state, county and local law enforcement jurisdictions. The police department also works with various community groups such as the Weed and Seed Project and the Mayors Anti Gang Task Force Committee. The combination of strategic law enforcement operations in conjunction with traditionally non law enforcement activities has produced a crime prevention strategy resulting in a reduction in serious crime over a thirteen year period.

The goal of the department is to continue these programs in furtherance of the trend in crime reduction. Although it is difficult to project which particular facet of crime will be our biggest challenge five years from now, be assured our departments strategy for crime prevention and reduction of serious crime will adapt appropriately and aggressively.

Many of the programs below represent our multi faceted approach to combating crime, gangs and quality of life issues in the City of Easton:

**Saturation patrols with the Pennsylvania State Police.**

The Easton Police Department continues to perform saturation patrol operations in the target area with the Pennsylvania State Police Troop M.

**Saturation Patrols with the Northampton County Sheriffs Department.**

The Easton Police Department also utilized the Northampton County Sheriffs Department in various saturation patrols.

**Adult and Juvenile probation home visits with the Northampton County Court Administration.**

Easton Police Officers partner with Northampton County Probation Offices to conduct home visits with offenders on probation to ensure compliance with terms of their probation.

**Participation in the Lehigh Valley Violent Crime Task Force with local, state and federal law enforcement.**

The Easton Police Department is a member of the Lehigh Valley Violent Crimes Task Force. Easton Vice/Narcotics Detectives partner with F.B.I. agents, D.E.A. Agents and the Phillipsburg, N.J. Police in targeting suspects in the drug trade. These operations have been very successful, resulting in large corrupt organizations busted and longer federal prison sentences.

**Route 222 Coalition, Anti Gang initiative participation with Local, State and Federal.**

Initiated by former U.S. Attorney Patrick L. Meehan of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, this six county, seven city collaborative efforts utilized Local, State and Federal Agencies to combat gang violence and the associated social effects gangs have on society. The cities in the effort include Easton, Bethlehem, Allentown, Reading, Lancaster, York and Harrisburg. Federal agencies include the F.B.I., D.E.A. and B.A.T.F. The effort attacks the gang problems from both law enforcement and social agencies that operate in each city as a Mayor's anti-gang task force.

**Northampton County Drug Task Force**

Police Officers and Detectives from several local law enforcement agencies conduct narcotic investigations under the auspices of District Attorney John Morganelli's Office.

**Read It, Record It, Remove it Anti graffiti program.** This program is funded by a federal Community Development Block Grant and utilizes V.I.P.S (Volunteers in Police Services) to locate and photograph graffiti. After logging the locations, the information is then passed on to the police department for removal. A power washing vehicle was purchased for removal and has removed over one-hundred fifty (150) locations in 2008. Since the programs inception, instances of graffiti have been gradually reduced in the target area.

**Easton Police Department saturation patrols and Vice/Narcotics operations**

Funded by the Community Development Block Grant, the Easton Police Department conducts supplemental saturation patrols and vice /Narcotics operations to compliment the Weed and Seed Saturation patrols. In 2009, the Police Department will send ten officers to the International Police Mountain Bike Association Certification Training and refurbish ten existing Cannondale Police Bicycles to conduct bicycle saturation patrols.

**Community Intramural Basketball League by the Easton Police Department and Greater Shiloh Church.**

The Easton Police Department and the Greater Shiloh Church have partnered to provide our youth with a basketball league for players 11-13, boys and girls on coed teams during the summer months. The concept was born out of a meeting in the spring of 2007 with Mayor Phil Mitman, Pastor Phil Davis, City Councilman Ken Brown, Deacon Walter Bright and Chief of Police Larry Palmer in response to some violent incidents of crime. The concern of all present was that our younger youth were not afforded the opportunity to play in a summer basketball league as our older teens were. The opportunity for all to play regardless of athletic prowess and the structured teaching of respect,

sportsmanship and fellowship to all became the goal of the league. From sponsorship by the Easton Police Department and Commissioners, coaches and support staff from Greater Shiloh Church, the league will enter its third season in 2009. Many youths have been impacted by this program with very little cost. Due to the hours selflessly dedicated by Greater Shiloh members and staff, the program has increased in the numbers of youth involved. The 2009 league will feature eight teams with fifteen youth per team. With two games per week and periodic practices, our 11-13 year old youth have a structured activity and socialization from June to August.

**Cops - N- Kids program at the Easton Area Middle School with the Easton Police Department and other local first responders.**

The Easton Police Department conducts a program called Cops-n-Kids in conjunction with the Easton Area School District that sends Easton Police Officers into the classrooms of fifth and sixth graders in the Easton Area Middle School. The Officers "teach" classes about what it is like to be a Police Officer. The program culminates with a field day outside with many specialty units of local police departments, emergency medical services, medical helicopter units and fire departments demonstrating their capabilities. The program was developed to build a bond with students in the classroom setting and demonstrate the various emergency responder careers available to them.

**Secure Our Schools Grant**

Secure Our Schools Grant is a collaborative effort between the Easton Police Department, the Easton Area School District and a neighboring municipality, Wilson Borough, PA. Totaling \$826,500.00 between matches and U.S. Department of Justice Grant money, this grant will provide recorded surveillance in the vicinity of the Easton Elementary School and surrounding neighborhood. It also provides for more secure lighting and school entrance security.

**Police Mountain Bike Operation**

Another program currently being implemented and as of yet unnamed is a cadre of police mountain bike officers throughout the City of Easton. Four Officers recently were certified thru the International Police Mountain Bike Association for Police bicycle operation. Four current officers were previously certified and six other sworn officers will be attending and certified within the next two months. This program is in the infancy of implementation however we expect it to be fully operational in May of this year. This program is fully funded by CDBG resources for all training, equipment and overtime associated with the program. Additionally officers certified will be utilized while working their normal shift as minimum manpower criteria allow. The program is an attempt not only to saturate strategically a location or neighborhood where known problems are occurring, but also at other locations or neighborhoods as a crime prevention/ community policing effort. The program will offer face to face contact with the public and the officers within certain areas of the city in a more conducive environment for enhanced relationships between the Easton Police Officers and the public.

In a collaborative effort with the Route 222 Mayors Anti-Gang Task Force, Easton Weed and Seed and the Easton Police Department have submitted proposals for two additional programs. If funded by federal grant sources the Skills to Success and the Route 222 Early Intervention Programming Addressing Drug Crimes and Gangs programs listed below will seek to address the teen and early adult sector of the cities population that has been deemed either most at-risk to perpetrate drug and gang crimes or address those who have unfortunately already entered that culture and committed first offenses. If not funded by the grant source at this time the three groups in the collaboration will continue to pursue funding for these programs.

**Skills to Success**

The skills for Success Program addresses a need to work with at risk students who are ill equip to success in the large high school environment, grades 9-12. We will do this by raising student's motivation, personal responsibility, and self worth, by improving study and organizational skills. This program builds positive assets by actively linking student, school and family in a shared endeavor. There are four components of this program, mentoring, academics, parent involvement, monitoring/evaluation.

The overall goal of the program is to successfully promote the student to the next grade level or graduation if they are seniors. The program offers instruction and support during the school day as well as after school hours. By assisting the students to build positive assets it decreases their available time in the streets and/or unsupervised, thereby decreasing the possibility of them becoming involved in gangs, crime and other negative behaviors. Currently this program is offered at Easton Area High School and has shown successful results. It is currently only offered to students in grade 9 with the intention of reducing the dropout rate amongst 9<sup>th</sup> grade students during this transitional year. Easton Area School District has requested expanding the program to address truancy and drop out rates at all levels by structuring the curriculum through the services of a coordinator and staff.

#### **Route 222 Early Intervention Program Addressing Drug Crimes and Gangs**

This program is modeled after the High Point, North Carolina initiative which intervenes with suspected criminals or suspects which have not yet been charged criminally. Utilizing a multi-faceted collaborative approach with federal, state, county and local law enforcement, the state corrections and criminal justice system, faith based organizations, community based outreach programs and non profits this program strives to keep young potential offenders and or first time offenders out of the criminal justice system by providing a second chance alternative. To be successful the program needs fully supported commitment by all of the agencies and organizations involved. This program will be coordinated by a civilian coordinator who can build strong relationships with both the supporting groups and the at-risk individuals.

#### **Summer Teen Basketball League**

The Easton Police Department is in engagement with the Boy's and Girl's Club of Easton and PAL to develop a summer teen basketball league in the West Ward of Easton to give this age group a diversion and reduce chances of resorting to illegal activity.