

07.27.2015

# Memo

**To**  
Residents and Stakeholders

**From**  
Sandra M. Moore  
Shaughnessy H. Daniels

**CC**  
TK Somanath  
Marcia Davis

**Re**  
Richmond Engagement Recommendations

As promised during our July 7 and 8 engagement meetings in Richmond, we are writing to you with an update and proposed next steps for the transformation of Creighton Court and the surrounding neighborhood. As you may recall, Urban Strategies was engaged in late May of 2015 to develop a strategy toward achieving a successful People Plan as a part of a Choice Neighborhood Initiative application. In our visits to Richmond we have worked with community planners, leaders, residents and stakeholders to strengthen engagement, to identify critical issues and concerns about plans for transformation, and to determine the best next steps to continue and build on the positive momentum we have seen thus far.

This work leads to the following recommendation: We propose the pursuit of a Choice Neighborhood Initiative Implementation when the next round of grants are announced. This application will include replacement of the 504 low-income housing units at Creighton Court, redevelopment of the Armstrong School site, strengthening opportunities for the surrounding neighborhood, and coordination among other East End Initiatives<sup>1</sup>. This work would be set to a specific 5-month timeline with the end goal of having a full first draft application, including comprehensive plans for housing, neighborhood, and people, ready by December 31, 2015. The anticipated timeline for this work follows. Please note that specific dates and times for each activity will be sent not later than August 1, 2015.

<b>Choice Neighborhood Implementation Engagement Timeline</b>	<b>August 2015</b>	Resident Leadership Group Meeting to prepare for broader resident and stakeholder engagement
		Service Provider Group Meeting to vet draft Guiding Principles and to review recommendations for service connection strategies
	<b>September 2015</b>	Determine Community Design Workshop Dates
		Community Design Workshop Planning and Coordination Meeting
		Pre-Design Workshop Meetings with Residents, Resident Leaders and Community Stakeholders
		Community Design Workshop Planning and Coordination Meeting

<sup>1</sup> East End and Richmond City initiatives including but not limited to initiatives currently underway by the Mayor's Office of Community Wealth, RVA Future, Churchill RVA, Center for Workforce Innovation, Thrive Collaborative and others.

	<b>October 2015</b>	Community Design Workshop
	<b>November 2015</b>	Draft Choice Neighborhood Initiative Implementation Application
	<b>December 2015</b>	Finalize First Draft Choice Neighborhood Initiative Implementation Application by December 31, 2015

While we believe this is the best course of action to build on the work that has been done thus far for this transformation effort, we are working with the RRHA and the City of Richmond at the executive level to develop and finalize an alternate plan for the revitalization of Creighton Court if it is determined that Choice Neighborhoods Implementation is not viable for the community. The community will be regularly updated on all progress related to this effort.

We are committed to working with you to develop the strongest application we possibly can, to ensuring that the process is inclusive, transparent and collaborative. We will provide regular updates on our progress as we work through this process.

We are very excited to continue this engagement work with you. We are looking forward to working toward a successful Choice Neighborhood Initiative Implementation grant application for Creighton Court and the surrounding community.