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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: February 7, 2006

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CHH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **Neighborhood Survey for 1997 Neighborhood Reinvestment Bond Projects**

The concept of reinvesting in neighborhoods through bond programs first arose in the bond issue of 1997. In this bond issue, funding was approved by the voters to reinvest in disadvantaged and deteriorating neighborhoods. The program was generally neighborhood issue driven by actual neighborhood residents.

The program has been successful. A number of neighborhood associations were surveyed where individual projects have been completed. The results of the surveys that were returned are attached for your information. The program, as the Board knows, was reauthorized in the 2004 bond program and continues to be implemented under a citizen oversight committee, as well as the entire Bond Advisory Committee.

If the Board has any specific questions regarding the attached survey or results from these surveys, please let me know.

CHH/jj

Attachment

c: Hank Atha, Deputy County Administrator for Community and Economic Development  
Margaret Kish, Director, Community Development and Neighborhood Conservation  
Leslie Nixon, Neighborhood Reinvestment Program Manager

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND  
NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION  
DEPARTMENT**



**NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY FOR 1997  
NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT BOND  
PROJECTS**

\* Information can have an error ratio of about 3%.  
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## **BACKGROUND**

In May of 1997, Pima County Voters approved a General Obligation Bond Package hence creating the Neighborhood Reinvestment Program. The benefit of this program is for “neighborhood organizations seeking to stabilize and improve their communities can leverage small scale, targeted capital improvements proposed under this program into anchors and focal points around which the residents can mobilize to make their neighborhoods safer for their children and themselves”<sup>1</sup>.

Again in May of 2004, Pima County Voters approved to expand and continue the progress made by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Program and extend the program to cover all of Pima County.

To date 24 individual 1997 Neighborhood Reinvestment Bond Projects have been completed, and another 17 are currently being implemented. The number of Pima County residents that have benefited directly from these completed projects is approximately 63,159<sup>2</sup>, along with \$3,015,632 in bond funding that has been reinvested back into these communities, through these neighborhood driven projects.

The information contained within is compiled from a community satisfaction survey, sent to all Neighborhood Associations that were awarded and completed projects from 1997 Neighborhood Reinvestment Bond Funds. These areas were located in the highest stressed<sup>3</sup> areas of Pima County, and geographically specific to Districts 2 and 5.

This survey was sent in August 2005 and returned to staff at the end of September 2005. All Neighborhood Association that have completed 1997 Neighborhood Reinvestment Bond Projects received this survey with a return ratio of 73%. A total of 26 surveys were sent to the Neighborhood Associations for these individual projects of which 19 were returned.

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## **KEY FINDINGS**

As a result of this survey, some of the Key findings that ranked the highest to Neighborhoods are:

- Safety Issues
- Sidewalks
- Lighting
- Traffic Mitigation
- Neighborhood Appearance
- Community Involvement

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**COMMUNITY BENEFIT**

\*Neighborhoods were asked what the primary reason(s) particular project(s) were selected.

Address Safety Concerns	89%
Beautification of Neighborhood	84%
Increased Community Involvement	74%
Address Crime Issues/Decrease Crime	58%
No Accessible Facilities (Handicap Ramps, sidewalks etc.)	42%
Improved Health Issues	32%
Other	11%

**BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY**

\*Neighborhoods were asked what benefits the community derived as a result from this project.

Improved Appearance of Neighborhood	89%
Increased feelings, safety and security	89%
Encouraged residents to walk, exercise or play outdoors	84%
Promoted a stronger sense of community pride	79%
Promoted a stronger sense of community (involvement with area issues)	79%
Increased Awareness and Recognition among neighbors	68%
Neighborhood identified new community needs	53%
Empowered residents to work more with Government agencies	47%
Influenced residents to volunteer more	37%
Neighborhood conducting more meetings	21%
Neighborhood Organization increased in number	11%

**PERCENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS USING THE AMENITIES**

\*Neighborhoods were asked, what percentage of neighborhood residents are believed to be making use of these amenities.

25% or Less	11%	25 – 50%	37%	50 – 75%	21%	75% or More	26%
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**DID THE IMPROVEMENT MEET THE ORIGINAL GOAL OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

\*Neighborhoods were asked if the improvements met their original goal.

YES	84%	NO		UNDECIDED	5%
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**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

\*Neighborhoods were asked what process(s) they used in selecting their project.

Neighborhood Survey	84%
Series of open Neighborhood meetings for discussion and vote	79%
Committee Development and presentation	53%
Combination of staff and residential input	53%
City/County development and presentation	47%
High Crime stats	21%
High Accident rates	5%
Other	5%

**NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS/RESIDENTS INVOLVED IN DECISION AND/OR WORKED ON DEVELOPMENT OF PROJECT**

\*Neighborhoods were asked the number of individuals/residents that were believed to be involved in the decision and/or worked on the development of this project.

20 or Less		20-35	26%	35-50	16%	50 or More	26%
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**DID NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS WORK WELL TOGETHER ON  
THIS PROJECT**

\*Neighborhoods were asked if those neighborhood residents involved worked well together on this project.

Less			Met Expectations				Exceeded		
1	16%	2	4%	3	32%	4	37%	5	11%

**OTHER PROJECTS THAT ARE NEEDED IF MONEY WAS  
AVAILABLE**

\*Neighborhoods were asked if other funding sources were available, what other projects they felt are needed in their neighborhood.

Sidewalks	84%
Street Lighting	53%
Traffic Mitigation	47%
Landscaping	47%
Bus Shelters/Stops	37%
Restoration/Preservation	32%
Signage	26%
Other	26%
Park Improvements	21%
Walking Paths	16%
Community Garden	16%
Park Construction	11%
Basketball/Volleyball Courts	0%
Playground Equipment	0%

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**OTHER COMPLETED NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECTS**

\*Neighborhoods were asked what other projects have been accomplished in their neighborhood.

Walking Paths	32%
Sidewalks	26%
Landscaping	26%
Street Lighting	26%
Park Improvements	26%
Park Construction	21%
Other	21%
Traffic Mitigation	21%
Playground Equipment	21%
Bus Shelters/Stops	16%
Basketball/Volleyball Courts	16%
Signage	16%
Restoration/Preservation	11%
Community Garden	11%

**NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT PROCESS**

\*Neighborhoods were asked if the Neighborhood Reinvestment process was a positive experience.

Less than Expected		Met Expectations				Exceeded			
1	5%	2	0%	3	16%	4	47%	5	26%

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## **QUOTES FROM SURVEYS**

**Maureen Hazlett – 2003 President Amphi Neighborhood Association**

“Raul Grijalva and Dan Felix were great to work with; they met all of our needs and expectations!!!!!!!!!! The park should be renamed to honor the late Dan Felix!!!!!!!!”

**Virginia Bushman – Secretary Parkway Terrace Neighborhood Association**

“The lights, everyone is grateful for them because they give us a sense of safety and now we can walk or ride our bikes.”

**Albert Zepeda – President Bravo Park Neighborhood Association**

“I still remember a statement of a young lad – ‘it’s a start. Thank you – someone does care about the South side.’”

**Doris Foster – Former President Western Hills II Neighborhood Association**

“Thank you. As ex-president of area, I now serve the community as contact and news editor for WHII. We are very pleased with our improvements. Our only goal now is to find funds to beautify along S. Campbell Ave. Our walking path for lighting and some trees, the walking path is used daily, by our families for exercise. It would beautify entrance to area, and make the path safe for evening walks.”

**Richard Kessler – President Elvira Neighborhood Association**

“The fact that Richard Elias was willing to work with us and either he or Andrea Altamirano was at our meetings to advise us and steer us in the right direction.”

**Carol Cribbet-Bell – Executive Director of La Pilita**

“The results!”

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## NOTES

“1” – Source Cited – Bond Improvement Plan May 20, 1997 Special Election Ordinance No. 1997-35 (As Amended by Ordinance No. 1998-58, adopted September 22, 1998 and Ordinance No. 2001-111, adopted August 20, 2001) (Page 130)

“2” – Source Cited, 2000 Census

“3” - Information on the processes used to determine the level of stress can be found at: <http://www.tucsonaz.gov/planning/data/census/census2000basic/basicpubs/funfacts2000.pdf>

“\*” - Denotes that this information can have an error ratio of about 3%.

- Some surveys returned are the first in a series of 3 which are sent
  - upon completion,
  - 6 months and
  - 1 year.
  
- Newly elected Neighborhood Representatives may not have all the information for some of the questions and therefore chose to leave them blank.

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