What Do the Neighbors Think?
Assessing the Community Impact of Neighborhood Stabilization Efforts

Appendix E: Resident Quotes about the Role of City and Community Institutions in Neighborhood Stability

- Residents offered many comments regarding the performance of police and other institutional actors charged with maintaining social stability.
  - One young adult male renter noted that, “I feel like my neighborhood could be better if there was more cops in it.”
  - Another middle aged female homeowner argued, “We need more patrols. More police presence.”
  - Another elderly female homeowner explained, “There needs to be more police visibility. I hardly ever see police coming through or driving through the street to make their presence known.”

- Additionally, many view local community organizations as effective in confronting some neighborhood problems and instrumental in bridging community concerns to city level actors.
  - As one older female renter recounted, “Over the years there have been incidences [of crime] but because of the neighborhood association and the community watches [in neighboring developments] it’s been controlled.”
  - Another elderly female homeowner related that her daughter served as the, “Neighborhood Association president. It takes time but can be done.”
  - An older male homeowner detailed how a neighbor living on an adjoining street was the leader of a neighborhood organization. “So he can give you all kinds of [advice]. So we are very active in the organization, and everybody is quite participating. If anything happens in this community, so there’s this issue we try to solve.”

- Other residents believed that neighborhood participation were necessary to bring about positive change and that residents needed to be more engaged.
  - As long term homeowner argued that people can solve community problems, “if they have the right resources.”
  - Another renter wrote “I feel there should be more community participation, and a way to gather the residents together to get more involved with their community/block.”
• Another resident believed that “my neighborhood should have better organizations and we all should share our opinions. Also the government should fix things around here.”

• Many residents see bridging between local and municipal organizations as crucial in promoting neighborhood stability.
  
  One female homeowner “belongs to the neighborhood association which has monthly meetings and get a lot done, for example, they got stop signs. There is a community officer who reports to the group on the monthly crimes. Encourages everyone to call 911 if they see anything.”

  Another long-time female owner noted that “The neighborhood has changed a lot of the people who have moved in are younger people. So there are a lot of parties w/ noise late at night. But [the neighborhood association] takes care of it. First we talk to them, if they don’t respond we call the police to let them know that we tolerate this.”

• Some residents did express a sense of institutional abandonment and alienation.
  
  One young woman believed that her communities’ inability to effectively confront instability was “because the state’s an ass.”

  One homeowner expressed frustration with both government and banks and their role in the foreclosure issue. ” The city/government is reactive rather than proactive. They wait until they’re in foreclosure. Banks are the same. No one is helping people keep their homes.”

  Where it comes to foreclosure we haven’t had much luck, but when it comes to sanitation...we have garbage pick-up 2 days a week.”

  Another person noted, “I wish banks and other lenders could work with owners to avoid these problems.”

  As detailed above, one man recounted how the owners of the foreclosed home got “swindled” by the banks.”