



One City, One Plan

(Session 1 summary)

Promoting Livable and Sustainable Neighborhoods

Featured panelists:

Daryl Roberts – Chief, Hartford Police Department
Alan Green - Executive Director, Hartford Housing Authority
Luis Caban – Executive Director, SINA
Denise Best – Board member, Upper Albany Main Street

Principal themes from community discussion:

1. Neighborhoods need better connectivity to each other and to downtown:

Despite not having a specific mass transit advocate on this panel, citizens thought that alternatives to automobiles are keys to healthy neighborhoods. In particular, there were suggestions that:

- There were too many surface parking lots in the city, particularly in neighborhood centers
- Parking regulations should be enforced
- Carpooling should be encouraged
- Pedestrians should be able to walk about more easily and safely
- CT Transit's bus routes need to be examined to ensure that Hartford residents can travel more easily north and south as well as east and west

2. Neighborhoods should have vibrant and distinctive centers

Again, there is a sense that parking lots are dominating the commercial districts within downtown and the neighborhoods. The unique character of Hartford's neighborhoods could be enhanced by emphasizing smaller scale, locally owned development over chain stores.

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3. Neighborhood economic development

Attracting commercial businesses to fill both the physical spaces as well as the service gaps is important to creating self-sustaining neighborhoods and to generating employment opportunities.

4. Maintain the housing stock and the environment

The City should ensure that owners take care of their properties and encourage the larger citizenry to pay more attention to recycling, litter clean-up and other environmentally friendly practices.