

# Livability In The 'Burg

A Community Conversation

## Summary of Data from Listening Session II, 7-29-17

### Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

- **Question 1:** Do you feel the city's parks and public spaces, such as rec centers and libraries, are safe? Hot 17; Not 0 (**100% HOT**) (**0% NOT**)
  - **Follow-up question:** How can we improve the safety of public spaces and buildings?
    - Street initiative
    - Complete streets
    - Better lighting and sidewalks
    - Communicate with law enforcement to increase their presence
    - Form Watch Groups, Peace Officers
    - Initiative for regular clean-ups
    - Better signage
    - Risk management
- **Question 2:** Do you believe the city's parks and public spaces are accessible for people of all abilities? Hot 14; Not 8 (**64% HOT**) (**36% NOT**)
  - **Follow-up question:** How can we improve the accessibility of parks and public buildings for pedestrians including those using assistive devices such as wheelchairs, walkers or canes?
    - Don't use cobble-stone pavers; difficult to walk on them
    - Improve sidewalks for canes, walkers
    - Consider those with hearing loss – install T-coils in public meeting rooms
    - Offer more public transportation
    - Offer Braille for sight-impaired, and volunteer assistants
    - Better manage handicapped parking at public buildings
    - Accommodate special dietary needs at public events
    - Offer sound warnings at crosswalks for the sight-impaired
- **Question 3:** Do you think the city's parks and public spaces have adequate amenities, such as seating, shade and drinking fountains? Hot 8; Not 14 (**36% HOT**) (**64% NOT**)
  - **Follow-up question:** How can we improve the comfort of our parks and public spaces?
    - Provide more seating and shade canopies
    - Keep restrooms open more hours
    - Offer a variety of seating
    - Make sure of availability for handicapped

## Health Services and Supports

- **Question 1:** Do you feel the city provides adequate opportunities to achieve and sustain a healthy, active lifestyle? Hot 14; Not 8 **(64% HOT) (36% NOT)**
  - **Follow-up question:** How can we better support a healthy, active lifestyle?
    - Build relationships with mobile doctors
    - Partner with the community
    - Offer health fairs
    - Expand the view of wellness, i.e., mental health issues
    - Better public transportation to health facilities
    - Improve communication on what resources we have
- **Question 2:** Does the city have a good variety of medical professionals, facilities and in-home service providers? Hot 6; Not 13 **(32% HOT) (68% NOT)**
  - **Follow up question:** How can we improve health care delivery options in the city?
    - Improve communication on what we have
    - Offer financial assistance to those who need it
    - Provide services where people are
    - Offer universal health care
    - Centralize health care
- **Question 3:** Do you believe that your home and community can support your independence as you age? Hot 11; Not 9 **(58% HOT) (47% NOT)**
  - **Follow-up question:** How can we improve our homes and community to help sustain independence?
    - Better transportation
    - Afford able housing and affordable repairs
    - Renovation help
    - Infrastructure f0or caring/support
    - Provide a fund to help people stay in homes if neighborhood gentrifies
    - Adjust land use policies to support more mixed use
    - Offer different services in each area.

## Respect and Social Inclusion

- **Question 1:** Do you feel the wants, needs and opinions of people of all ages are welcomed and valued throughout the city? Hot 7; Not 14 **(33% HOT) (67% NOT)**
  - **Follow-up question:** How can we facilitate more inclusiveness for people of all ages?
    - Offer more reasons to come together
    - Promote more events, with themes
    - Make age-friendly, include faith-based orgs
    - Bring older and younger generations together
    - Make planning of events intergenerational
- **Question 2:** Do you feel there are intergenerational activities for all ages within the city? Hot 1; Not 18 **(5% HOT) (95% NOT)**
  - **Follow up question:** What types of intergenerational activities interest you most or do you wish to experience more of?
    - Have older persons serve as mentors

- Offer skill exchange programs
- Competitive games, quizzes, educational activities
- Story-telling in the libraries
- Community gardening
- Skills Banks centers
- Inter-generational outings, outdoor activities
- Inter-neighborhood outings

## Civic Participation and Employment

- **Question 1:** Do you feel there are flexible job opportunities for people of all ages?  
Hot 1; Not 21 **(5% HOT) (95% NOT)**
  - **Follow-up question:** How can we better support and encourage more job opportunities for all ages?
    - Employer contribute to pay for training
    - Hold more job fairs
    - Provide city block grants for training
    - Show value of changing mindset about hiring older workers
    - Job flexibility
    - Best practices
- **Question 2:** Does job-related training exist within St. Petersburg?  
Hot 13; Not 1 **(93% HOT) (7% NOT)**
  - Follow-up question: What kinds of job-related training need to be available here?
  - **No comments**
- **Question 3:** Do you feel that people of all ages are welcomed to participate in the deliberations of decision-making bodies, such as community councils and/or committees?  
H 9; Not 13 **(41% HOT) (59% NOT)**
  - Follow-up question: How can the city encourage greater civic participation from citizens of all ages?
    - Better communications; better notification
    - Field trips to City Council meetings
    - Views should be acknowledged
    - Open to all ages
    - Open advertisement – radio, TV
    - Civics education in the schools

## Housing

- **Question 1:** Do you feel that the city offers a diverse array of affordable housing options?  
Hot 0; Not 19 **(0% HOT) (100% NOT)**
  - **Follow-up question:** How can the city better support housing options and affordability for people as they age?
    - Partner with developers at state, county and local level to encourage smaller housing communities
    - Develop/encourage affordable housing
    - Improve affordability for ALL

- Build duplexes, triplexes for various housing arrangements
  - Offer developers funding options to build more affordable units
  - Seek federal grants for senior housing
- **Question 2:** Do you believe your neighborhood is safe? Hot 15; Not 1 **(94% HOT) (6% NOT)**
  - **Follow-up question:** How can we make our neighborhoods safer?
    - Build strong neighborhood associations
    - Green
    - Zoning requirements that facilitate public engagement
    - Better lighting
    - Community awareness forums with city agencies such as law enforcement
    - Put police officers on foot and bikes to increase visibility
- **Question 3:** Regarding accessibility, do you anticipate that your home will need to be modified to meet your needs as you age? Hot 7; Not 11 **(39% HOT) (61% NOT)**
  - Follow-up question: What resources could help you live independently in your home as you age?
    - Certified Aging in Place professionals
    - Adaptability funding/tax credits
    - In-home supportive services
    - AARP home fit program
    - Federal grant program
    - Resources for renters
    - Communicating resources to all
    - Improvement in protection of senior renters
    - Advocates for seniors against fraud, taxes, renting
    - More funding for people who need modifications

## Communication and Information

- **Question 1:** Do you feel well-informed about events and entertainment in St. Petersburg? Hot 14; Not 1 **(93% HOT) (7% NOT)**
  - **Follow-up question:** What mode of communication do you prefer to learn about what is happening in St. Pete?
    - Internet
    - Facebook, Twitter
    - Direct email
    - Texting
    - Flyers
    - Newspaper
    - Radio
    - Community Newspapers
    - TV
    - Mail
    - Water bills
    - Library
    - Faith communities
- **Question 2:** Do you believe you are well-informed about public and private resources and services in St. Petersburg? Hot 2; Not 17 **(11% HOT) (89% NOT)**

- **Follow-up question:** What would help you stay better informed?
  - More trained Advocates
  - Phone banks
  - Clearing house/one-stop
- **Question 3:** Do you use the internet by yourself or with the help of others to research and locate community services when you need them? Hot 18; Not 0 **(100% HOT) (0% NOT)**
  - **Follow-up Question:** What resources would help you access and use the internet more effectively?
    - Free community workshops (AARP)

## Transportation

- **Question 1:** In your opinion, does the city have adequate transportation options for those who do not drive? Hot 0; Not 19 **(0% HOT) (100% NOT)**
  - **Follow-up question:** What transportation options would you like to see expanded or developed?
    - Later bus operating hours
    - Volunteers to drive others
    - More local bus connections to express buses
    - Increased frequency of bus runs
    - Better route development – include users in designing routes
    - Transportation co-ops – church buses sit empty except on Sundays
    - Targeted hyper-local electric taxis
    - Shower stations for bikers
    - Prioritize fixing potholes
    - Have Transit Board members ride the buses
- **Question 2:** Do you feel that the city is safe for pedestrians and bicyclists? Hot 1; Not 18 **(5% HOT) (95% NOT)**
  - **Follow-up question:** How can we make St. Pete safer for pedestrians and bicyclists?
    - Better enforcement of speed limits, in neighborhoods and main streets
      - Cross walks should be more visible
      - Time lights to wheelchair users
      - More speed bumps in residential areas
        - Alternative strategies for those with chronic pain
      - Design for safety to make it ways to stay at or under speed limit
      - Better signage at crossings
- **Question 3:** Are the current transportation options available in St. Pete accessible to you? Hot 8; Not 9 **(47% HOT) (53% NOT)**
  - **Follow-up question:** How can we increase transportation accessibility for when we need it?
    - Make them more efficient, comfortable, frequent
    - Better communication to inform residents of schedules
    - Route maps back on buses
    - Create shower networks
    - Better leadership
    - People don't know about DART or how to process paperwork to use it
    - Calculating externals/costs/Big Picture

## Social Participation

- **Question 1:** Do you feel that the city has enough social forums for you to have fun with people who share your interests? Hot 10; Not 7 **(59% HOT) (41% NOT)**
  - **Follow-up question:** How can we increase opportunities for social interaction?
    - Create more courtyard designs in residential communities
    - Offer co-housing options, with common spaces like shared kitchen, gathering spaces
    - Roaming ambassadors in neighborhoods
    - Outreach to people who live alone
    - Consider language/ethnic backgrounds
- **Question 2:** Do you believe that social opportunities offered in St. Pete are accessible to everyone? Hot 3; Not 14 **(18% HOT) (82% NOT)**
  - **Follow-up question:** How can we make social opportunities more accessible and affordable?
  - Comments:
    - Improve transportation
    - Get more business involvement
    - Conduct community surveys
    - Balance public low-cost public events with those that cost more
    - Include specialized transportation for public events
- **Question 3:** Do you use Facebook or other social media to help you stay close to neighbors, friends and family? Hot 18; Not 2 **(90% HOT) (10% NOT)**
  - **Follow-up question:** What would help you benefit more from the internet to sustain relationships with people who matter to you?
    - Phone calls
    - Expand public Wi-Fi access and public computer access
    - Free smart phones