



Atlanta Housing Association of Neighborhood-Based Developers

Celebrating 15 Years of Community Building

Community Revitalization Breakfast

September 16, 2003, Atlanta, GA

Members of the Atlanta City Council met with representatives from local Community Development Corporations (CDCs) to discuss the importance of non-profit affordable housing developers at the Atlanta Housing Association of Neighborhood-based Developers' (AHAND) first annual Community Revitalization Breakfast sponsored by the Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership and the Enterprise Foundation.

Representatives from the Reynoldstown Revitalization Corporation (RRC), the University Community Development Corporation (UCDC), SouthStar CDC, and the Atlanta Micro Loan Fund discussed their organization's background, programmatic activities, accomplishments, and challenges in an effort to highlight areas where the Atlanta City Council could lend their support.

Corby Hannah, Executive Director of Southstar CDC expressed concerns shared by several of his counterparts when he mentioned that late disbursements by the City have required him to place SouthStar's popular emergency home repair program benefiting low-income seniors and disabled residents of the City of Atlanta on hiatus until further notice.

Other presenters discussed the challenges they face in their efforts to create affordable housing in light of soaring housing prices. "When I first started, we were able to pay \$18 per square foot to acquire vacant properties in our service area, now we're paying between \$50 and \$75—making it much more difficult to serve our target population" said Wayne Robinson, Program Coordinator for the University Community Development Corporation.

Atlanta City Councilmember Ivory Young shared his enthusiasm in support of the work that AHAND and its member organizations are doing to revitalize the City, strengthen its tax base, and make it a safe place to live, work, and play. In doing so, he stated "because there's no such thing as a low-income brick or an affordable stud" CDCs should leverage their resources through collaborative agreements that help create greater economies of scale to maximize their impact.

With the lines of communication now open, AHAND member organizations are looking forward to the continued support of the Atlanta City Council in their efforts to revitalize their respective neighborhoods.



Wayne Robinson, UCDC Program Coordinator, discusses the organization's history.



Meeting participants listen intently as Young Hughley, Executive Director of RRC, comments on the importance of Community Economic Development.



Sulé Carpenter, Executive Director of AHAND, and Virginia Green, President of the Historic District Development Corporation, discuss maximizing the momentum generated by the Council Breakfast.



From left to right: Sulé Carpenter, AHAND; Corby Hannah, Southstar CDC; Councilman Ivory Young; Councilwoman Natalyn Archibong; and Garry Long, Whitefoord Community Program