



# The Connection



## Focus Vivion Road

No more virtual meetings! NNI held its freshly invigorated Focus Vivion Road meeting in person for the first time in over two years in April.

Newly promoted Assistant City Manager Mario Vasquez said funding will be made available through the North Oak TIF for essential improvements at NE 48th Street and NE Vivion Road. Vasquez encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming public meetings concerning the project to see the details.

David Horn reported many exciting

Coming soon to  
Antioch Crossings!



new developments coming soon to Antioch Crossing including, Crumbl Cookies, Dairy Queen, and Xtra Space.

**Senior Workshop**

May 11, 9:00 am

**Focus Vivion Road**

May 11, 4:00 pm

**Dianna Wright Reception**

May 17, 5:00—7:00 pm

**Neighborhood Roundtable**

May 18, 2:00 pm

**Memorial Day Observance**

NNI Offices Closed

May 30

**Jay B. Dillingham**

**A Kansas City Treasure**

**(NNI Fundraiser)**

June 17, 5:00—7:00 pm

All events at 5340 NE Chouteau Trafficway, Call 816-454-2000 for more information



Intersection of NE Vivion Road & NE 48th Street to be improved.

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# Kansas City Climate Plan Update

## Just. No.

Andy Savastino, Chief Environmental Officer KCMO, visited with NNI's monthly neighborhood roundtable, chaired by Board Member Henry Clark, to discuss recent updates made to the city's 2008 Climate Protection and Resiliency Plan.

Savastino presented the changing climate's impact on Kansas City and provided details on how the city will aggressively achieve its lofty goals. The City Council approved new goals for the city to become climate neutral by 2030 and city operations by 2040.



When it's full, the city will export trash to regional landfills costing taxpayers more money.

"Recycling is not that hard. We need to work hard to save Mother Earth," said Mary Clark, Cooley Highlands. "How hard is it to place recyclable items in a bin?"

Savastino led a nearly two year study, creating a city-wide plan that moves Kansas City away from mitigation strategies and towards resilient, equitable, and adaptive measures for the ever-changing Midwestern climate.

Citywide carbon neutrality calls for extraordinary measures, such as the proposed 3,000 acre solar-panel farm next to the new Kansas City International Airport. Preliminary studies are underway to see if the terrain is suitable and can connect to the city's power grid. A solar farm of this capacity would generate more than enough energy to supply Kansas City.

On April 7<sup>th</sup> Jeff Fulton asked the NNI Planning and Development Committee to support his desire to redevelop the US Bank site at N. Brighton and NE Vivion Road. into a used car lot.

Committee members collectively voiced the following concerns:

- The proposed project is clearly not in compliance with policies adopted by the city council, through the Briarcliff/Winnwood Area Plan and Vivion Road Streetscape Plan.
- The proposed project would have a negative impact on the adjacent residential neighborhood, especially those homes bordering the project boundary.
- There is no community need for an additional used car lot.
- The proposed project would not provide any improvement to the corridor but would reduce the value of surrounding properties and have a deleterious effect on future private investment in the corridor.

*"Recycling is not that hard. We need to work hard to save Mother Earth," said Mary Clark, Cooley Highlands.*

"In this particular effort, we're moving beyond just mitigation strategies and moving into adaptation strategies as well " said Savastino, a 28-year city veteran.

Climate experts predict the Kansas City, MO could feel more like Houston, TX in twenty to thirty years. Rolling brownouts and blackouts could gradually get worse, and our landfills may be full in 10 years.

Dave King said, "We want you to build your car lot; just not here."

NNI will monitor the progress of this application and continue work to bring positive development to the corridor.

# NNI Hosts First Listening Session

The Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce hosted the first of six ‘Kansas City, Missouri Police Chief Community Listening Sessions’ at Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. on March 29. The public forum allowed residents and community leaders to express what qualities they’d like to see in the next chief of police with regards to transparency, accountability, and community engagement.

“Too many times, we will hear people say they are not engaged because nobody is asking; well, we’re asking them to be engaged.” Said Ron Lindsay, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.

A coalition of community, civic, and business groups organized the listening session, which was well attended by the public and various media organizations. Governor Mike Parsons appointed the Board of Police Commissioners to conduct a nationwide search to replace current Chief of Police Rick Smith, who retired on April 22. Deputy Police Chief Joseph Maybin stepped in as interim Chief on the 23<sup>rd</sup> until the board finds a permanent replacement for Smith.

The findings from the discussion will be presented to the Board of Police Commissioners. Typically, the search committee decides on two final candidates *and then* seeks public input. The police department in partnership



with the different area chambers of commerce and community organizations, such as NNI, are engaging with the public *well before* candidates are chosen.

“They will hear what Kansas City wants in a police chief. This has never happened. It’s never happened to this magnitude,” said Pastor Darron Edwards from “Getting to the Heart of the Matter”.

Some questions asked at listening session:

- ◇ Describe what community engagement from the new KCPD Chief of Police looks like to you?
- ◇ Describe what transparency from the new KCPD Chief of Police looks like to you?
- ◇ Describe what accountability from the new KCPD Chief of Police looks like to you?

## Cleaver to be at NNI

Congressman Emanuel Cleaver will be the keynote speaker at NNI for this event:

**Jay B. Dillingham**

**A Kansas City Treasure**

**June 17, 5—7 pm**

Info? 816-454-2000



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Major Santiago Garza, KCPD



Major Joel Lovelady, KCPD

## Meet the Majors

Neighborhood and community leaders welcomed Major Santiago Garza to Shoal Creek Division and Major Joel Lovelady to North Patrol Division at a reception at NNI. Both officers stressed the importance of neighborhood and community connections. NNI looks forward to continued positive partnerships with KCPD.

## Welcome Dianna Wright

Recently, the Clay County Commission announced the appointment of Ms. Dianna Wright as the new County Administrator.

A Missouri native, Ms. Wright has extensive public sector experience serving over 30 years at the executive level. From her start in Gladstone, to Wentzville, Harrisonville and Olathe, Ms. Wright has brought her experience and skills as a talented public administrator.

Help us give Ms. Wright a warm welcome!

*May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.*

*Northland Neighborhoods, Inc.*

*Raymond R. Brock Hall*

*5340 NE Chouteau Trafficway, Kansas City, MO 64119*

*RSVP: 816-454-2000 or info@nni.org*