



100 State Street Beloit, WI 53511
Main 608-364-6700 Fax 608-364-6609
www.beloitwi.gov
[Follow us on Facebook](#)
Equal Opportunity Employer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: DeRondal Bevly
Derondal@serafin.com
312.943.1955 or 312.420.5481

CITYWIDE COORDINATED PLAN CREATED

Series of Community Listening Sessions and New Neighborhood Revitalization Program Planned

Oct. 16, 2015—In an effort to create stronger community relations and enhance community development, City Manager Lori Curtis Luther is leading a new Citywide Coordinated Plan to help better understand the needs of residents and address difficult issues facing Beloit. A series of community listening sessions have been planned that will provide community residents with the opportunity to share insights and concerns and also offer suggestions and enhancements. The feedback will also provide the City with the information necessary to design a new neighborhood revitalization strategy. Together City officials and residents will determine the community's future priorities.

A community meeting will be held at **Merrill Elementary School on Tuesday, Oct. 20 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.** Light refreshments will be provided. Families are welcome. The meeting is open to the public.

Luther and the City's Community Development Department are also spearheading a new community initiative to amend the City's previous Consolidated and 2016 Annual Plans to include two Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSA): the Merrill Neighborhood and the Near West Side (or Hackett) Neighborhood. These areas have both been identified as distressed neighborhoods in which strategically-focused revitalization efforts will begin.

The NRSAs are targeted areas into which resources are concentrated in order to create a substantial impact within a defined neighborhood. Planning for the NRSAs will include studying neighborhood revitalization/stabilization activities to reduce deteriorating housing stock, vacant and abandoned properties, high concentrations of rentals and resident-focused activities to reduce poverty, unemployment, educational inequalities, and gang activity. Public safety activities that utilize more modern, more effective community policing practices will also be examined.

The City will use the information from these public listening sessions to develop initiatives to strategically allocate available Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

Following next week's session, an online community survey will be made available on the City of Beloit's website. Future listening sessions are tentatively scheduled to be held in November and December. Advance public notice will be provided once the session dates are set.

For further information or to submit comments, contact Teri Downing in the Community Development Department at 608-364-6705 or by email at downingt@beloitwi.gov.

###