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SECOND CITYWIDE COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSION

Nov. 16, 2015—In a continuing effort to create stronger community relations and enhance community development, City Manager Lori Curtis Luther is holding a second community meeting this week. This listening session is part of the Citywide Coordinated Plan to help better understand the needs of residents and address difficult issues facing Beloit. All listening sessions planned provide community residents with the opportunity to share insights and concerns and also offer suggestions and enhancements. Feedback provides 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.

The next community meeting will be held **Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2015 at Hackett Elementary School, 625 Eighth St., from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.** Light refreshments will be provided. Families are welcome. The meeting is open to the public.

Because Luther and the City's Community Development Department are developing a new community initiative that proposes to use Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, it is necessary to amend the City's Consolidated and 2016 Annual Plans. The Hackett and Merrill neighborhoods have both been identified as distressed neighborhoods so will be included as Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSA) which will allow strategically-focused revitalization efforts to begin..

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 CDBG funding.

This week's session includes an online community survey that is available on the City of Beloit's website.

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.

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