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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## City Hosting Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area Meetings

**March 12, 2019** - The City of Beloit is hosting two neighborhood meetings to recap the progress being made in the Hackett and Merrill neighborhoods, identify ongoing needs, and to prioritize goals for the neighborhoods.

The meetings are being held by the city's Division of Community and Housing Services in its Community Development Department, the City of Beloit Police Department, and Community Action. Residents are welcome at either meeting, although information shared at each meeting will be specific to that particular neighborhood:

- Merrill Neighborhood: Wednesday, March 13, 6-8 p.m., Merrill Community Center, 1428 Wisconsin Ave.
- Hackett Neighborhood: Wednesday, March 27, 6-8 p.m., Beloit Historical Society, 845 Hackett St.

The Hackett and Merrill neighborhoods are part of the city's Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA), which is part of the city's five-year Consolidated Plan for federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The plan includes activities of sufficient size and scope to have a positive impact on a neighborhood within the jurisdiction of the local government. The NRSA brings together a variety of stakeholders to help enhance neighborhood revitalization, resident empowerment, and public safety in each neighborhood.

"The purpose of this plan is to address the concerns in the neighborhoods and meet the needs of the Beloit community," said Teri Downing, director of community and housing services. "These targeted areas allow the city to partner with other groups to provide a more comprehensive way to address the community's needs. Through the city's CDBG program, we are able to use more federal funds toward services and activities that directly assist people in these neighborhoods."

Community Action will provide updates on the resident empowerment portion of the NRSA activities. Community Action provides programs such the fatherhood initiative, mentoring,

skills enhancement, and the resource navigator.

The City of Beloit Police Department will go over the city's accomplishments toward a safer community, including a drastic reduction in crime over the last two years. The department will also share information about new crime prevention technology for the community.

“Over the past few years, we’re seeing the community’s trust in our guardians increase exponentially,” said Police Chief David B. Zibolski. “As we continue to see the collaboration and engagement between our officers and the community continue to improve, we’re also seeing crime decreasing and crime clearance rates are significantly higher than similarly sized communities. The entire community should be proud of how far we’ve come together.”

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