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STOCKYARD, CLARK-FULTON & BROOKLYN CENTRE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

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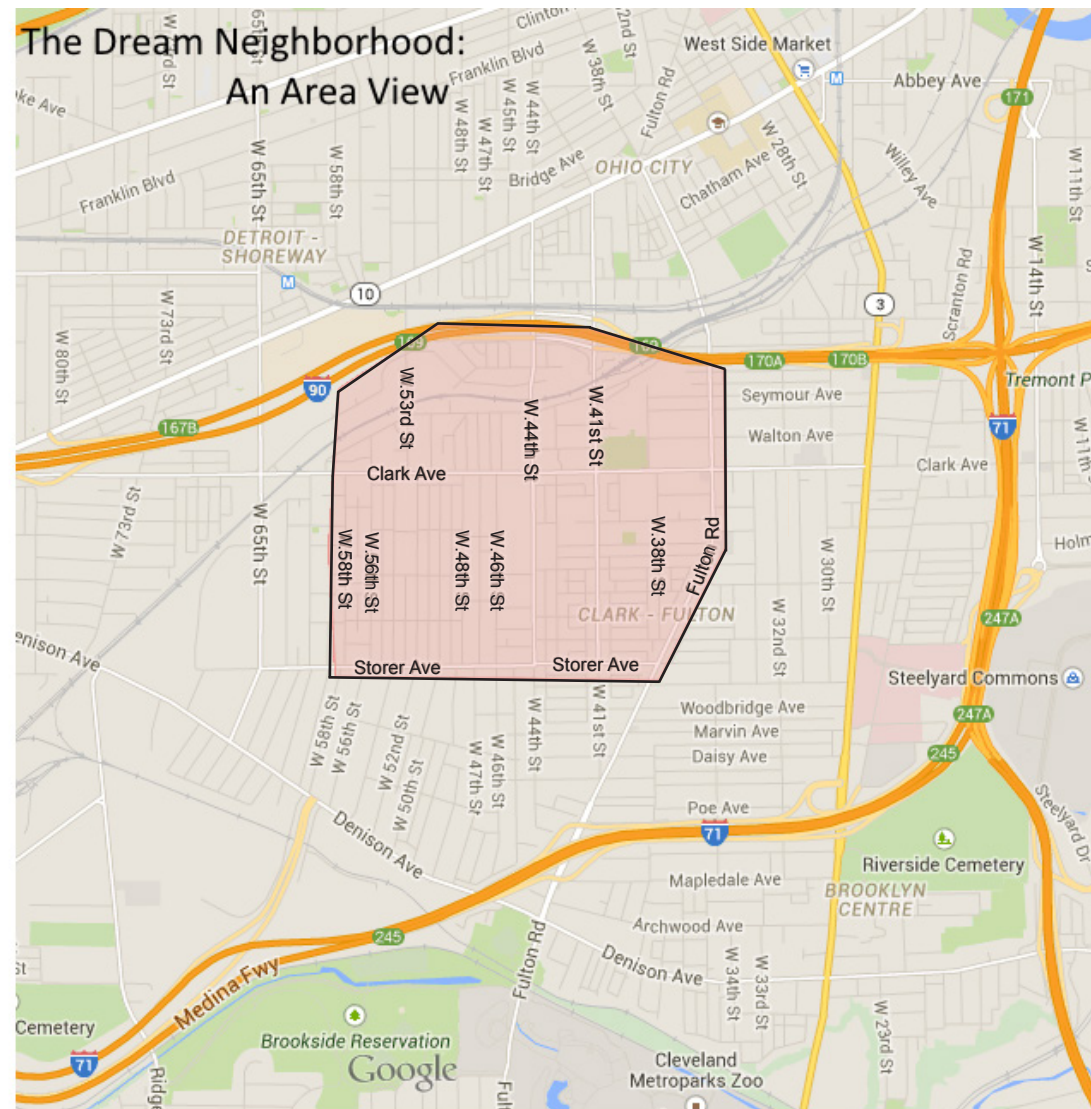
WARD 3

COUNCILMAN BRIAN CUMMINS

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THE DREAM NEIGHBORHOOD

BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING A DIVERSE COMMUNITY



WELCOME



Millions of refugees have been forced to flee their homelands because of political, religious, cultural or racial persecution. After a long process, the US State Department grants refugee status and an opportunity to come to the US to less than 2% of all applicants. The city of Cleveland welcomes approximately 635 refugees per year. The goal of the Dream Neighborhood is to welcome newcomers into our community with open arms by providing better access to safe and affordable housing, education designed for the refugee community (The Thomas Jefferson International Newcomers Academy), workforce opportunities, community centers, faith organizations and other community assets to help in their transition and provide

the resources to thrive in Cleveland. This neighborhood initiative is being spearheaded Councilman Cimperman and the Stockyard, Clark, Fulton & Brooklyn Centre CDC.

There is an opportunity to create a strong community for refugees around the Thomas Jefferson International Newcomers Academy. The vision for the Dream Neighborhood starts with Thomas Jefferson at the center, and spans out for a half mile in all directions. Within this area, there are numerous opportunities to redevelop housing for refugees, as well as opportunities to align and coordinate needed services. The goal of the Dream Neighborhood is to create a supportive community for incoming refugee families while simultaneously sponsoring housing rehabilitation, new business development and economical growth.

REFUGEE INFORMATION

When first transitioning to life in the U.S., refugees often struggle finding affordable, quality housing. Refugees also experience difficulty understanding their roles as tenants and what rights are afforded to them as a tenant. The purpose of this project is to create safe, affordable housing while simultaneously involving support services to help refugee families integrate into their new neighborhood. Despite their struggle, refugees tend to be excellent tenants. For example, refugees:

- Have extremely low eviction rates (0%)
- Reach self-sufficiency within a two year time period
- Open their own businesses
 - During the last 10 years refugees have opened 38 businesses, contributing \$7.6million in 2012 alone.

THOMAS JEFFERSON INTERNATIONAL NEWCOMERS ACADEMY (PREK-12)

The Thomas Jefferson International Newcomers Academy is part of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District specializing in integrating refugee and non-English speaking students into American society through language and cultural immersion. In the process, Thomas Jefferson continues to support and celebrate students' diverse heritage. Currently, this school serves over 500 students. Our hope is that this school will serve as a hub for the burgeoning refugee community that will grow within The Dream Neighborhood.



THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The Dream Neighborhood is rich with assets which include:

- The 22 Acre Zone Recreation Center
- The Clark Recreation Center
- The Hildebrandt Collective, an Artists maker space
- The 7 International Village Block Club Gardens, one of the gardens is being used by neighborhood residents to grow culturally specific produce
- The new \$50 million Max Hayes High School



The Clark Avenue area recently completed a Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative study which called for transportation improvements to the Clark Avenue corridor infrastructure and accessibility. Additionally, this neighborhood has convenient close proximity to I-90 and I-71. The Dream Neighborhood will create a community that is supportive of refugees while revitalizing an existing neighborhood. This plan will create affordable and safe housing for refugees while reducing the number of vacant properties. It is a collaborative effort to provide support to refugees while encouraging transportation and commercial development and rejuvenating the neighborhood.

HOUSING

The neighborhood surrounding Thomas Jefferson is comprised of roughly 2,661 properties. Since 2005, 31% of all homes in this area have experienced foreclosure. As of January 2015, there are 53 active foreclosures. There are 145 vacant properties; 88 of which are condemned. Through a collaborative effort with the City of Cleveland, we will push these properties to demolition and condemnation while engaging in a program to acquire 20 vacant and abandoned homes each year within the targeted area. These properties will then be marketed to a group of pre-screened investors with a sales price of \$5,000. A subsidy of \$30,000 from the City of Cleveland is being requested to aid with the rehabilitation. Upon completion of the rehabilitation, investors will be required to rent to refugees through a restrictive covenant. Through the collaborative effort of the Stockyard, Clark-Fulton & Brooklyn Centre Community Development Office and its partners, wrap around services will be provided to both investors and refugees to provide support to both parties.

To ensure the sustainability of this neighborhood, the following goals will also be accomplished:

- The creation of a community center
- Identification and support of commercial development
- Creation of additional garden space for residents
- Advocacy for increased transportation amenities and programs for refugees
- Wrap-around Supportive Services
 - Health & Wellness Initiatives
 - Education
 - Employment Training & Opportunities
 - Block Club Support – create a welcoming community

