

















Your Neighborhood. Your Projects.

2013-2014
Citizen Budgeting for Public Safety
Handbook





Background: What is this about?

Last December and January we convened **Voice of the Citizen - Seeking Solutions to Violence** meetings in each city quadrant. The focus of these meetings was public safety. The meetings were well attended and generated many excellent suggestions, some of which have already been implemented. We believe that these meetings demonstrated a community commitment to actively participate in making our streets, homes and businesses safer. Chief Sheppard and the RPD have embraced a philosophy of "Policing in the Spirit of Service." This represents RPD's commitment to consistently providing excellent police service to the entire Rochester community. We believe that these efforts are paying off and that we can continue to build on the progress now underway.

Goal:

We intend to take last winter's work and the RPD's efforts to engage the community to the next level. In addition to proposing ideas to improve public safety, we are asking citizens to help determine the feasibility of these ideas, develop an action plan for idea implementation and to select the action plans that will be funded. We believe that this will continue to build relationships based on knowledge, understanding, collaboration and trust. This will make our streets and homes safer. We ask everyone involved to work with us to achieve this goal.

How does this work?

Cycle 1: Voice of the Citizen Meetings

- Building on the participation of citizens in last winter's meetings, we will hold another round of Voice of the Citizen meetings. The purpose of these meetings will be gather additional ideas and begin the citizen selection process.
- Each quadrant will be allocated \$50,000 for the implementation of public safety related ideas. Ideas selected in this process will be developed into Action Plans.
 Each Action Plan shall be subject to the following guidelines:
 - It must have a demonstrated connection to public safety;
 - It must be capable of implementation within one year of final approval;
 - It must be Approved and have funds commitment by May 30, 2014;
 - By law, City funds may not be used to improve private property. Therefore, any property improvements proposed in an Action Plan must take place on public property or in the public right-of-way;

- Projects may include funding for equipment or materials to support the public safety objective;
- Projects may include personnel costs for a term not to exceed the term of the Action Plan;
- Projects may be subject to public bidding or Requests for Proposals;
- Projects may be carried out by City personnel with the City depending on the nature of a particular project.
- Any Quadrant resident or business owner is welcome to attend, submit ideas and participate in the idea selection process.
- Based on last winter's work, the meetings will be broken out into to four subject areas and a miscellaneous table. City staff will serve as facilitators for the breakout sessions.
- Each breakout session will be asked to nominate three ideas for development into Action Plans; to nominate at least one individual to serve on the Action Plan Committee and to act as an advocate for the breakout group's ideas.
- The ideas nominated by each breakout session will be presented to the full meeting and meeting participants will rank the ideas from the among nominated ideas by each breakout group.
- Meeting participants and quadrant residents will be encouraged to serve as delegates and further develop selected ideas into action plans during cycle 2's action plan committee meetings.

Cycle 2: Delegates Attend Action Plan Committee Meetings

- Each quadrant will host an Action Plan Meeting. The Committee will convene at meetings coordinated by the quadrant Neighborhood Service Center.
- Delegates who serve on the committee will include the idea advocates nominated at the Voice of the Citizen meetings and other citizens who may wish to participate.
- The purpose of this cycle will be to turn ideas recommended by citizens at the Voice of the Citizen meetings into Action Plans capable of implementation.
- Action Plan delegates must consider the need, cost and feasibility of implementing an idea.
- The Action Plan will be produced in a standard format that will allow for easy comparison by quadrant residents.

- City staff will facilitate Action Plan meetings and will serve as technical advisors.
- Each Action Plan Committee must complete the development of at least three Action Plans by November 15, 2013.
- Action Plans will be posted on the City's website and Action Plan Committees may hold community meetings for a public discussion of the Action Plans that will be submitted to Quadrant voters.

Cycle 3: Voting for Action Plans

- Residents and business owners of each quadrant shall select the Action Plan or Plans for implementation from among the plans submitted.
- The Action Plans shall be awarded in the order of the number of votes received.
- At least one Action Plan shall be selected in each quadrant as long as the cost does not exceed \$50,000.
- More than one Action Plan may be selected as long as the aggregate cost of the Action Plans do not exceed \$50,000. Actions Plans will be funded in the order of the number votes each Action Plan receives with the Action Plan receiving the most votes being funded first.
- Voting shall begin on or about Monday, December 2 and end on Monday, December 16.
- All quadrant residents at least 16 years of age and quadrant business owners will be eligible to cast one vote. Those wishing to vote will be asked to provide proof of residency in the quadrant.
- Ballots will be available at Neighborhood Service Center offices, city branch libraries, recreation centers and City Hall. Ballots will also be available at the City's website.

Cycle 4: Project Implementation

The city shall perform the necessary steps to implement the Action Plans selected by quadrant voters.



