

Comments Received During the Action Plan Comment Period AP 2024-2025

#1. Comment Received: Springfield Preservation Trust

Springfield Preservation Trust would like to submit this comment below in regards to the Action Plan for 2024-2025.

Thank you to the City of Springfield for everything that you do. In regards to the action plan Springfield Preservation Trust wants to advocate for the continuation of funds toward historic preservation and facade work. Additionally, the Trust hopes a new survey of downtown properties may be completed. The last one was over forty years ago. Thank you for your consideration.

Answer:

We will take your comments and suggestions for a downtown survey of properties into consideration. Your comments will be included in this year's Action Plan, 2024-2025.

#2. Comment Received: East Springfield Neighborhood Council and Hungry Hill Neighborhood Council

In response to the recent announcement seeking input for the annual Action Plan for 2024-25, the East Springfield Neighborhood Council and Hungry Hill Neighborhood Council wish to include our comments and suggestions for the coming cycle.

Both neighborhoods and their councils continue to request funding for Quality of Life issues and Code Enforcement. We request funding be designated to assist the Springfield Police Department in its Ordinance Squad, and Code Enforcement/Zoning for its inspectors in order to strive to be more effective. Personnel and administrative systems need added resources. As neighborhoods we want stronger education and enforcement of existing quality of life regulations. The practice of issuing warnings, tickets, fines, citations, etc., does not result in resolution to issues at hand. Stronger enforcement with additional resources would better the neighborhoods and their quality of life.

Additional support should be provided to city departments that host special permit documents and active business listings. This would be beneficial for neighborhoods and residents and city staff to know what is an active/legitimate business, as well as an accurate record of special permits with their approved conditions. This should be so that is easily located by residents, businesses and enforcing authorities.

In addition, if funding is designated for small business, whether existing or start-ups, we ask that it is given to viable businesses with a strong track record and financial stability that will enhance a neighborhood. We see too many repetitive businesses that saturate a neighborhood and they are not successful and become blight on our neighborhoods. An evaluation of what a neighborhood already has in existence should be included in a determination of what is workable.

Along with this we strongly urge facade improvement grant funding be issued with a stronger review of what is the actual outcome as some do not visually pleasing to each neighborhood.

Support for both short and long term neighborhood planning for all neighborhoods is an important need. As result of recent funding opportunities several neighborhoods were able to have updated neighborhood plans leaving behind the remaining city neighborhoods. Many of these neighborhoods have central business corridors along with a variety of amenities. Updated plans would be well worthwhile and would be a guide for neighborhood councils to make improvements and options to their commercial corridors.

Funding for home improvements to residents is necessary due to the rising costs of materials, etc. We would like to see that funding for this segment be increased so residents in all neighborhoods have an option for funding repairs to their homes.

We strongly urge you to consider these comments and suggestions in your final recommendations for the coming fiscal year.

Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,

KATHLEEN BROWN
President, East Springfield Neighborhood Council

CATHERINE MOSSI
President, Hungry Hill Neighborhood Council

cc: Council File Board Members
Michael A. Fenton, City Councilor, Ward 2

Answer:

We will take your comments and suggestions into consideration. Your comments will be included in this year's Action Plan, 2024-2025.