

# City of Bridgeport

## Plan of Conservation and Development

### Quality of Life and Equity Thematic Meeting

Ralphola Taylor Community Center  
10AM, Saturday, September 8, 2018

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On September 8, 2018, the City of Bridgeport Master Plan of Conservation and Development project team held their third thematic meeting related to quality of life and equity in Bridgeport. The purpose of this meeting was to review the current conditions related to equity, identify relevant priorities from the meeting attendees, and identify strengths, issues and new ideas for improving equity in all its forms in Bridgeport. Twenty-one (21) members of the public were in attendance.

The project team began the meeting by introducing the Master Plan and clarifying how equity and quality of life relates to the larger picture of the Plan. Following the presentation, the meeting attendees were given clickers to vote in real-time on interactive survey questions that helped to identify the group's priorities relevant to equity in Bridgeport (results below). Attendees broke out into groups to identify the strengths, challenges, and new ideas for reforming and improving quality of life in Bridgeport (summarized below).

#### **Breakout Session Notes**

The statements below are a summary of the opinions expressed by meeting attendees. The statements do not necessarily reflect City policy or objective facts.

#### Strengths:

- Health system is good, there is a lot of focus on it and many hospitals and clinics, access to them could be improved though
- Bridgeport provides a lot of services to the region
- There is a lot of potential regionally

#### Issues and Challenges:

- Want housing that is affordable for the City's residents
- There is low school enrollment in some schools, schools should be combined in certain locations
- Quality of life and equity in neighborhoods needs to improve
- The City's tax burden is carried primarily by homeowners, tax breaks for non-profits need to be reevaluated
- Need to have better enforcement related to blighted properties and slum lords
- Life skills and financial education is needed in many neighborhoods
- Downtown needs to be revitalized (Main Street)
- Need better landscaping in public spaces
- City website is outdated and it's hard to find information; there are a lot of services, but the public can't find information about these services
- There are more services available in adjacent municipalities, particularly recreational programs
- People with the means to do so leave Bridgeport because of the poor education system
- Quality of life varies between various neighborhoods
- Bridgeport's reputation affects the quality of life
- Lack of investment in Bridgeport from the State
- Issue of gentrification
- Absentee landlords prevalent
- No affordable daycare options
- The Police Department is not accredited. State standards are not met and there are no standards for discipline
- Unions set the tone for policies and practices, this should change
- Certain streets are in poor condition: lots of trash, potholes, crumbling/dilapidated sidewalks
- Pride in neighborhoods is low and neighbors are disconnected
- Snow removal is an issue, there is poor communication about parking bans on roads, so the plows are not able to fully plow streets when cars are still parked
- Many large garbage cans on the streets and sidewalks are an issue
- Hard to lobby for more money from the State

#### Ideas for Improving Bridgeport's Equity and Quality of Life:

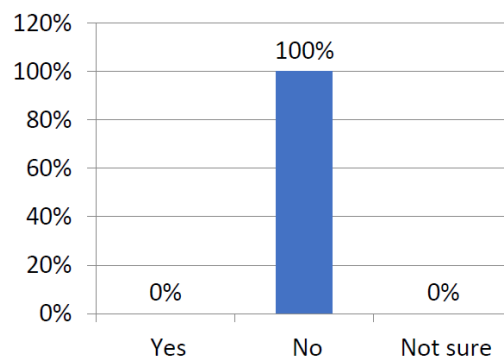
- Change Planning and Zoning regulations to lower the number of unrelated people allowed to live in a household to address issues with student housing and absentee landlords
- Should look at "Vision Zero" traffic safety and fatality reduction
- Need more regional governance and collaboration
- Planning and Zoning regulations need to be updated
- Residential employment requirement could be good, but how do we provide the incentives that are needed to attract those types of employees?
- Should have a program to address blight issue that could acquire properties and transfer them to local homeowners, like the Habitat for Humanity model
- New developers and employers need a "Contract with the City"
- To qualify for tax breaks, there should be an employment requirement (ex. Number of jobs created, etc.)

- Restore the service levels on Greater Bridgeport Transit system
- Need more ADA accessible parks and playgrounds
- Free parking at the parks
- Create a neighborhood festival
- Require cultural sensitivity training for law enforcement and public service providers
- Bridgeport should have better lighting, facades and art, and wayfinding to activate public spaces
- Need bike lanes
- Bridgeport should promote the neighborhoods and hold block by block meetings and activities
- Need to eliminate blight
- Bridgeport should have block parties in all the neighborhoods
- Needs to be more interaction between the police and the neighborhoods
- Bridgeport should foster engagement with civic groups and political groups
- Need to give more of the budget to education
- Need a variety of housing options and smarter deals with developers
- Need to create a bigger tax base, vacant lots should be put to a better use

### Interactive Survey Results

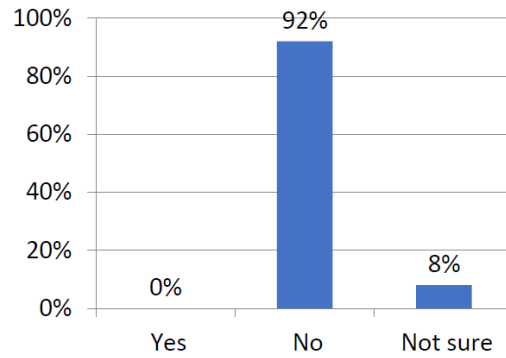
## Is Bridgeport an equitable city?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Not sure



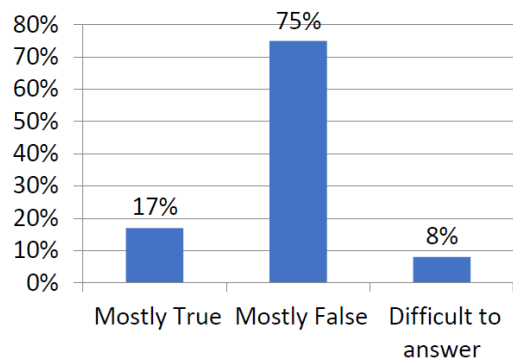
## Is Bridgeport's government and its services equitable?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Not sure



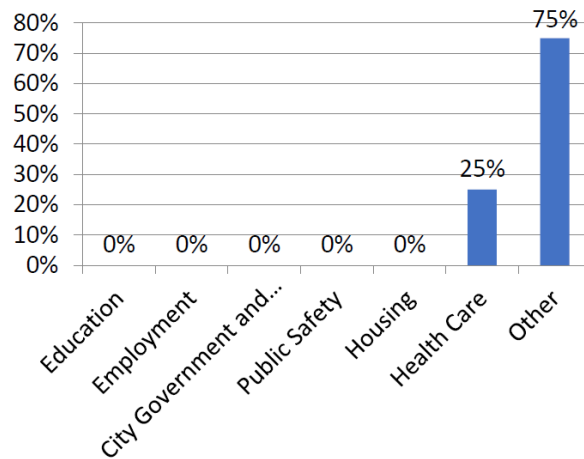
## In Bridgeport, I feel that I am treated fairly.

1. Mostly True
2. Mostly False
3. Difficult to answer



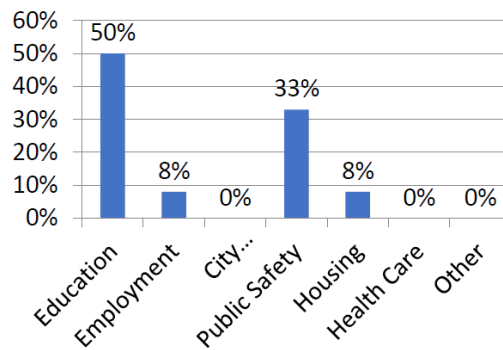
## What aspect of Bridgeport is the most equitable?

1. Education
2. Employment
3. City Government and Services
4. Public Safety
5. Housing
6. Health Care
7. Other



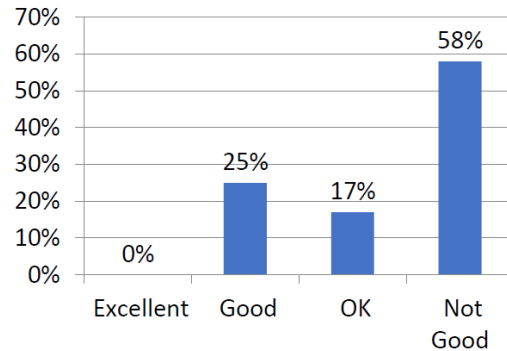
## What aspect of Bridgeport is the least equitable?

1. Education
2. Employment
3. City Government and Services
4. Public Safety
5. Housing
6. Health Care
7. Other



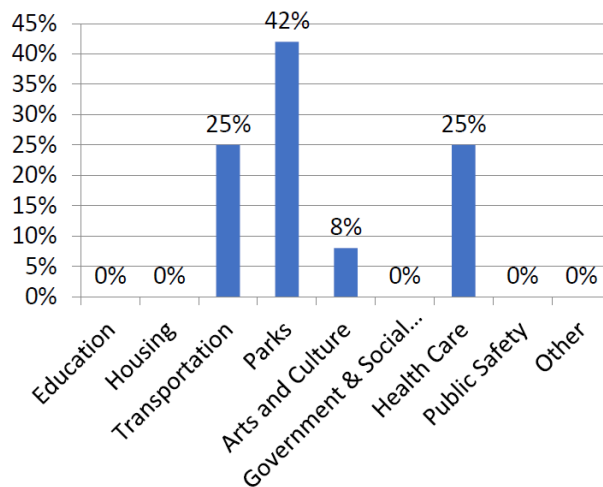
## How do you rate the quality of life in Bridgeport?

1. Excellent
2. Good
3. OK
4. Not Good



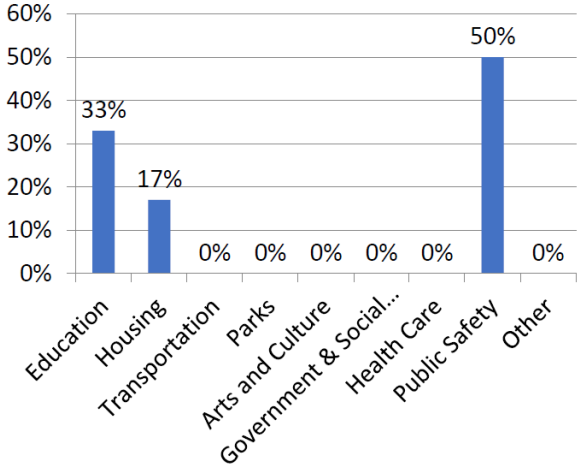
## What is the strongest quality of life factor in Bridgeport?

1. Education
2. Housing
3. Transportation
4. Parks
5. Arts and Culture
6. Government & Social Services
7. Health Care
8. Public Safety
9. Other



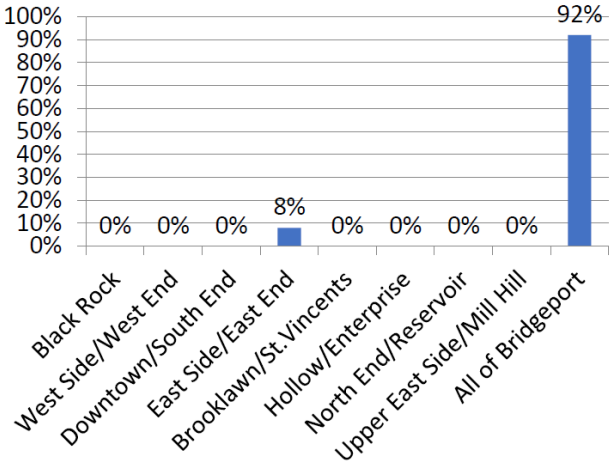
# What is the weakest quality of life factor in Bridgeport?

1. Education
2. Housing
3. Transportation
4. Parks
5. Arts and Culture
6. Government & Social Services
7. Health Care
8. Public Safety
9. Other



# What area of the City struggles most with quality of life issues?

1. Black Rock
2. West Side/West End
3. Downtown/South End
4. East Side/East End
5. Brooklawn/St. Vincents
6. Hollow/Enterprise
7. North End/Reservoir
8. Upper East Side/Mill Hill
9. All of Bridgeport



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**Project Team**

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