

4.8.08

BRAINSTORM FROM FLINT

- Issues
- Crime, Violence
- *Education, Flint Schools
- *Employment, Poverty
- *****LEADERSHIP, GOV'T
- Blight - housing options, slumlords
- Negative self-image
- Lack of regionalism - Flint vs. out-county, county vs. MI
- Right size options for population - underused rec centers, lack of good public spaces - meeting places
- Shrinking tax baase
- Health - fresh food, options, subpar housing
- Civic engagement - youth, adults
- Entitlement
- Complacency - institutions, nonprofits, gov't, community
- Redundancy of services

Solutions

- Promoting positive - pressure on media
- Hopeful atmosphere
- New leadership
- New entry points for grassroots activists
- Regional/local master strategies
- Livable downtown, then neighborhood revitalization
- Multifaceted initiatives

- College students working together & getting out into the community

One sentence (maybe 2)

Flint is a vibrant, diverse, 24-hour, green, destination city with a diversified economy having reputable educational opportunities run by strong leaders. The community offers cultural and leadership opportunities for youth and adults.

REPLY FROM INDIANAPOLIS

Similarities

Crime and violence...connected directly to poor education system

Tax issues...lack of regionalism

Some abandoned home problem, slumlords

Poor health...weight, smoking,

Differences

Employment and poverty...fairly good compared to surrounding areas

Neutral self image

Civic engagement...we can come together, great volunteers, but poor voter turnout

What do we think.

Lots of challenges...can become great opportunities

Really need to work on self image....keep head up

Ideas

Diversify economic development....need incentives (see Anderson, Indiana story.

Automotive city went downhill but is now attracting new investment)

Exploit Michigan State presence...use as catalyst.

Find something good, however trivial, and exploit it...build self image. Use "Flint alumni" to tell stories of how successful Flint natives have been.

Bring people together, find connections...not always the big projects that make a difference. Collaborations.