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Dear Resident;

Congratulations in taking the first step in becoming active in your neighborhood! Union Miles Development Corporation is very excited in assisting you along this journey. Union Miles has and will continue to be a support system for the residents by supporting meetings led by them in addition to hosting them. To achieve successful collaboration with a community, all parties involved need to strive to understand the point of view of “insiders” whether they are members of a neighborhood, religious institution , health practice, community organization, and or public health agency.

Meaningful community participation extends beyond physical involvement to include generation of ideas, contributions to decision making, and sharing of responsibility. Building capacity to improve health involves the development of sustainable skills, resources, and organizational structures in the affected community. Empowerment takes place at three levels, the individual, organization or group, and the community.

Building relationships is essential when establishing new partnerships and repairing old ones. Our goal is to have partnerships that are of quality, not based on quantity. Relationships that we have are those that share the same common interests, goals and wants; to continue to build upon trust and display dedication to the Union Miles community. Union Miles Development Corporation strives to cover all of those areas mentioned above. In the Union Miles area, our Block Clubs are very vocal and have developed young leaders in the community. Each year, UMDC hosts a variety of events for the community that increases awareness of resources, promoting community pride and economic development.

We understand the challenges and realize the social –economic issues will not change overnight; however, we believe with your help, you will be able to assist us in changing the community one step at a time. I am very excited that you will now be a participant in the positive changes that are occurring in the Union-Miles neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Roshawn Sample
Roshawn Sample, Executive Director
Let’s Get Started!
Mission and History

The Union Miles Development Corporation’s mission is to “improve the quality of life within the Union Miles service area through community engagement, housing and economic development.”

The Union Miles Development Corporation was founded in 1981, as a spin-off organization of the Union Miles Community Coalition. The Union Miles Community Coalition was a well-established community action group (comprised of residents, businesses, and churches) that collaborated to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood.

The coalition identified housing as critical to the long term vitality of the Union Miles community and created the Union Miles Development Corporation as the entity to address housing related issues and projects. Today, the Union Miles Development Corporation provides a wide array of programs and services to improve the quality of life in the Union Miles area and to accomplish our mission.

The vision for the Union-Miles neighborhood is for residents to have community pride and become invested in where they live, worship, work and play. We want Union-Miles to be a business training incubator and cultural destination of choice. In order to rebuild the neighborhood, businesses; residents and the organization must do the following:

- Increase resident capacity to collectively act on their own behalf and have a greater role in decisions that affect their lives.
- Raise the community level of awareness and its capacity and power to respond to social and economic issues.
- Be an effective vehicle for social change in the community.
- Have a larger core of trained leaders who have the capacity to lead other residents to win improvements for their community.
What is a Street/Block Club?

A Street Block Club is a group of neighbors that have organized to improve the quality of life in their community. Connecting with each other to strengthen the neighborhood, sharing ideas of what can be done and combining talents to make it happen. Clubs can organize to ensure accountable and transparent local government and create a powerful voice for the community. Block Club are the backbone of an organized neighborhood.

Initial Outreach

Example Outreach Email or Letter

Dear Neighbor,

My name is Jane Doe and I’m a community member who would like to create a Street Block Club in our neighborhood. Would you be willing to meet with me to discuss the potential of organizing a block club?

Please let me know.

Sincerely,
Jane Doe
216-555-5555
emailme@gmail.com

(You can also create flyers and go door to door)
After the meeting....

“Thank you so much for meeting with me. Can you think of anyone else that I should meet with?”

Setting up your first Street Block Club Meeting

A. Where

Because your Street Block Club is open to everyone, your meeting should be located somewhere that is accessible to everyone. Your local library might be a good location, or check with your local CDC. Don’t be afraid to ask.

B. When

Not everyone has the same work, school, or family schedule, so it’s important to consider a time that is most fair to your neighbors. Ask your neighbors for advice about when would be the best time to meet. Send an email or make the calls to get your neighbors to vote.

C. Why

Not everyone lives in the neighborhood for the same reason. Talk to your neighborhood partners to structure your first meeting so that everyone can contribute and receive something of value. Invite district police officers, your council elect, local CDC to address community concerns.
Being Prepared

1. Follow an Agenda

An agenda is like a map for a meeting. It explains where the meeting will go and how it will get there. Without a map, it is easy to get lost. It also helps define a meeting’s purpose. Agendas should be structured, but also flexible enough to encourage participation.

Example:

(Title) Street/Block Club Meeting

(Date) March 22, 2017  
(Time) 3:30PM  
(Address) 9250 Miles Park Cleve, Oh 44105

Agenda

I. Introductions  
II. Summary of last meeting  
III. Community updates  
IV. Next Meeting date  
V. Closing

(Template can be emailed upon request)
2. Delegate Roles

At the first meeting, it is good to start discussing roles. Some street block clubs may want to have clear roles, like a President and a Secretary, to help facilitate progress. Other groups may find a more casual approach better. It is important to find what is right for your group. You only need three people to start a club.

**Example:**

- ✔ President
- ✔ Vice President
- ✔ Treasurer
- ✔ Secretary

3. Don’t Give Up

Some groups may grow slowly while others may grow faster than planned. Some of your members may decide this isn’t for me and drop out. Don’t get frustrated, and don’t give up.
First Street Block Club Meeting

Action Groups are a great way to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Street Block Club. Action Groups are created to affect change on specific areas of interest. To help facilitate these Action groups, individuals can volunteer to be the group coordinators.

Guidelines to help keep meeting discussion(s) fair:

- Only one person should speak at a time.
- Everything needs to be said in a courteous and respectful manner.
- Group decisions are made by a vote and counted by the individual assigned.
- Everyone has a right to their opinion and no one should attack or devalue another person’s opinion.
- Write down questions and/or suggestions as they come to mind.
- When members’ dues will be collected.
Your mission

Even though your mission statement is optional it will help to guide the club. It says why the club has been formed, and what the club will do. It should be specific so that it can provide direction, but it should be vague enough so that it can allow growth and development. The mission statement is the foundation that the club will build upon.

It may take a few tries until your group develops a suitable mission statement. Because of its importance, it may be helpful to at least start brainstorming the mission statement at the very first meeting.

Schedule Your Next Meeting

Now that you have brought a group of neighbors together, be sure to find out when they can meet again. Schedule the next meeting. This way you and your fellow block club members will be able to start publicizing the next meeting right away.

KEEPING TRACK OF WHO IS AT YOUR MEETINGS

Attendance is very important and should be taking at every meeting. Someone within your club normally the secretary should be responsible for keeping track of who’s attending these meeting. In addition that same person should keep track of how long you’ve met (meeting minutes). This information can be requested when applying for grants or donations. Please be sure it’s available if it’s requested.
Once your club has agreed on your vision there is additional support from different organizations and or foundations that can assist, for example:

- Neighborhood Connections
- Neighbor Up
- Night out against Crime

You should also adopt a cause this will benefit your community and help give back. Example of adopting a cause:

- **Hosting Block Parties**
  (Engaging your neighbors)
- **Volunteering**
  (Giving back and showing presents within the community)
- **Coordinating a Neighborhood Clean-Ups**
  (Enhancing Community value)
- **Attend Community Meetings**
  (Stay engaged and let your voice be heard)
Active Block Clubs

Street/Block Club Names:  Presidents:

Nelson Street Club  Mrs. Settles
Street Club United  James Gresham
Elizabeth St Coalition  Joyce Hood
Avon Street Club  Lillian Smith
East 126th St Club  Kim Golphin
Ferris/Marston St. Club  W. Dean Hudson
East 108th St Club  Ruby Fields
Southeast League  W. Nell Ezekiliel
Sandusky 3rd Shift  Steven Terrell
First Street Coalition  Tahia Herd
Prince Street Club  Debra Lewis-Curlee
Gaylord Street Club  Christian Moore

Union Miles Block Club Presidents meet at Killingsworth Meeting Place located at 4127 East 131st street once a month. Please be sure to get a schedule. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

To request additional information on Union Miles Active Street /Block Clubs please contact our office and your request will be forwarded and addressed by a member of the Club.
Community Meetings You Should Know About!
Community Meetings

Ward 2 Meeting
Earle B Turner Rec
Fourth Tuesday of each Month
6PM-7:30PM

Organizers & Allies Meeting
TBD
First Thursday of each month
11AM-1:00PM

4th District Commander Meeting
Covenant Community Church
Fourth Wednesday of each month
7PM-8:30PM

Union Miles MyCom Roundtable
Killingsworth Meeting Place
4127 East 131st Street (Miles Shopping Plaza)
Fourth Wednesday of each month
6PM-7PM

Union Miles Block Club Presidents Meeting
Killingsworth Meeting Place
4127 East 131st Street (Miles Shopping Plaza)
Third Thursday of each month
11AM-12:30PM