



DIVERSITY 2008-2012 Plan

February 27, 2007

MISSION

Promote and preserve our diverse community by connecting neighbors through community programs, services and activities.

OLATHE
KANSAS

INTRODUCTION

Department included in this KRA and involved in development of the 5 year plan:

- * Neighborhood and Human Services

- Human Relations
- Housing and Transportation Division
- Housing Authority
- Neighborhood Services

Key Strategic Priorities

- Increasing Awareness through Education
- Enhancing Housing & Transportation Services
- Empowering Citizens
- Engaging Youth & Senior Services
- Expanding Partnerships

Service History and Trends

- **Education Awareness**

- 2006 Direction Finder results showed 65% of respondents, up from 55% in 2005, stated city does a good job promoting diversity.
- 55 Languages spoken in Olathe District Schools.

- **Housing and Transportation**

- Housing stock in older neighborhoods is aging.
- 86% of the Public Housing tenants surveyed rated quality of housing units as good or very good.
- 93.9% of taxi coupon participants rated the taxi program as good or very good. 37,059 one way taxi coupons utilized in 2006.

Service History and Trends

- **Empowering Citizens**

- Established City's Citizen Volunteer Program.
- Increase participation in Family Self Sufficiency Program.
- Three families have purchased homes through Homeownership Program.

- **Youth and Senior Services**

- Number of students participating in the Martin Luther King Celebrating Diversity event increased from 1,047 in 2006 to 1,725 in 2007.
- Students actively involved in local government and National League of Cities.
- Senior population in Olathe is increasing

- **Partnerships**

Plans to Address Priorities

Increasing Awareness through Education

- Conduct educational activities and events that promotes diversity.
- Reduce subtle discrimination by helping community understand different cultures.
- Reduce complaints by providing fair housing, EEO and diversity training to employees and citizens.

Plans to Address Priorities

Enhancing Housing and Transportation Services

- Increase marketability and appeal of older neighborhoods through rehabilitation programs.
- Invest in aging City owned public housing units.
- Explore feasibility of a rental rehabilitation program to address deteriorating rental units.
- Explore extension of public transportation routes.
- Participation in the Mid-America Regional Council's Community Transportation Pilot Project.

Plans to Address Priorities

Empowering Citizens

- Explore possible assistance for affordable senior housing opportunities.
- Help citizens become active members of the community through language programs.
- Increase families participating in Family Self-Sufficiency and Homeownership programs.
- Employment opportunities for our disabled and low income citizens will be enhanced by expanding public transportation programs.

Plans to Address Priorities

Engaging Youth and Senior Services

- Conduct forums where youth and seniors identify their needs in the community.
- Be recognized as a “Lifelong Community” by the Kansas Department of Aging
- Youth mentoring with city staff.
- Expand website to provide an interactive site for our youth.

Plans to Address Priorities

Expanding Partnerships

- Enhance programs, services and events through partnerships with businesses, schools and the faith community.
- Actively pursue funding and in-kind contributions for KRA programs.
- Recruit volunteers through local media, city website and Channel 7.
- Provide grants to local organizations through CDBG, Community Program Funds and Special Alcohol Tax Funds.

Discussion



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