

Restore Northeast Detroit (Restore NED) District 3 Manifesto
RE: Preserving Quality of Life Standards With American Rescue Plan Funding

Manifesto (definition):

A published statement declaring publicly the intentions, motives and visions of the issuers.

Restore NED Manifesto: On this date of Monday, June 28, 2021 we, the residents of the “**forgotten**” neighborhoods of District 3 i.e. those geographically situated in areas from: John R(Woodward) to Hoover, East Eight Mile Road to I-94 are printing and submitting this Restore NED Manifesto, as our published statement of Recommendations of how, we believe American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funding is to be allocated to benefit our “forgotten” neighborhoods.

For the record, it should be noted that certain District 3 target areas, such as Banglatown and the G7 areas have received City staffing, funding and other resources to stabilize and redevelop their area homes, parks, streetscapes, and increase their safety and security. **Let us stress that this Manifesto applauds those efforts. We commend those strategies and wish them continued success; however . . . for the record . . . OVERALL, “OUR” geographic areas, as the “OTHER” neighborhoods of District 3, WHERE WE LIVE continue to be “forgotten” and continue to decline. It is for these “forgotten” District 3 neighborhoods that this Restore NED Manifesto is being submitted for the public record.**

Whereas: COVID -19 has undoubtedly magnified and intensified the health and economic disparities that our “forgotten” neighborhoods face, the signs and symptoms of the decline of **OUR** “forgotten” District 3 neighborhoods are readily seen all around us as: blight, abandonment, disinvestment, increased industrialization, high inventory of eye-sore, non-maintained Detroit Land Bank properties, high numbers of foreclosures, high and illegal property tax assessments, loss of neighborhood safety/security, administrative disregard for true community engagement, decline of city services, disenfranchisement of residents by non-inclusion in advanced City of Detroit and Detroit Economic Growth planning processes, general deterioration of our neighborhoods, **closure of our libraries, shuttering of our schools**, decline of our commercial areas, dirt, non repair of our roads, illegal dumping, and the overall intent of keeping our District 3 neighborhoods magnets for unsightly junkyards, junk vehicle storage lots, diesel trucks, cement crushers, dismantling yards, and garbage haulers. *Where are the landscape buffers, beautification or environmental safeguards that are the norm in other areas?* **In summary, OUR District 3 neighborhoods and residents have become victims of “design by neglect”. We are submitting this Restore NED Manifesto because WE deserve and are entitled to Social and Economic Equity through this American Rescue Plan funding and SHALL NOT BE categorized into city wide “buckets” of funding which, if we are lucky, will “trickle” in droplets down to our District 3 Restore NED neighborhoods.**

AS REMEDY . . . WE REQUEST AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN Funding to do the following:

Neighborhood Improvement through these Neighborhood Investment Programs

A. Home Repair GRANTS NOT LOANS without income restrictions

1. Senior Citizens shall be given Home Repair priority.
2. Residents w/disabilities, medical, financial needs = second tier priority.

B. Green Technologies – grants to install solar panels on homes or solar farms.

C. Support Rehab of Nortown Homes Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) units

so they can continue to provide safe and affordable housing for first time home buyers and also as continued rental units for low to moderate income populations.

D. Design, planning, clean up, and construction **RESOURCES to revitalize OUR “forgotten” single family residential neighborhoods. (*See also “Neighborhood Trust Fund” – Section B below*).**

Working Premise: Even dealing with COVID’s pandemic, our senior residents have stuck it out through years of bad times and deserve COVID’s healing benefits now. People with disabilities, medical and financial needs are “at risk” populations, even post-COVID. YET -- **BOTH populations are the backbone of our neighborhoods. Home repair Grants without income restrictions will insure District 3 housing stock in OUR residential areas shall be preserved and stabilized. Installation of green technologies shall reduce energy costs for seniors, and low – moderate income families. Rehab funding and First Time Homeowner down payment assistance of the Nortown Homes will insure that affordable housing units will continue to be available in close proximity to jobs along the St. Cyril, Harper, Van Dyke, Gratiot corridors. Providing subsidies and Home buyer assistance programs to revitalize ALL OUR “forgotten” neighborhoods will be insure that ALL of our single family home stocks will be preserved.**

E. Create a Post COVID - Neighborhood Trust Fund for to Plan, Design and Implement Projects

1. Shall Foster more innovation on a community level RE: housing and/or other project visions
2. Shall Promote open green space with inclusion of art in “our” neighborhoods
3. Shall Fund Art projects, murals, sculptures in key locations
4. Shall Fund Green Technologies that could be used to enhance homes, parks or other open spaces.
5. Shall provide Design help to engage Community in visionary planning for OUR geographic areas.
6. Shall establish neighborhood funding resources to implement visionary plans for Residential, Commercial or Industrial areas.
7. Overall – Trust Fund shall result in Creating walk-able, sustainable, healthy, and safe neighborhoods which are trying to recuperate from the disparities created by this COVID pandemic.

Working Premise : **OUR NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS HAVE THE VISION**, they just need architectural, technical, and landscape planning services and/or monetary resources to carry out their visions to

bring about revitalization of their areas through resident & business planning dialogue and mutually agreed upon standards, after COVID's 16 months of lock-down.

F. Establish Truck Routes in District 3 to protect residential quality of life and the environment.

1. **Work with City, County and State officials to devise routes which will minimize threats to our residential areas**, especially to highly sensitive areas *such as Hoover and Sherwood which are aligned with residential housing.*
2. **Work w/SW Detroit leaders and the State/City** to guarantee that the Truck Routes in District 3 will coincide with what is planned there and routes related to the Stellantis and Hamtramck /Warren plant Operations, along sensitive corridors, such as Mt. Elliott, Seven Mile, Sherwood, Hoover E. Outer Drive and Mound.
3. **Engage residents in “true” community planning to AVOID “problems” before** a business is established. Industrial areas can be designed to look like “parks” with new operational, “good neighbor” design standards and landscape buffers.

Working Premise: Diesel and 18 wheel trucks negatively impact our health, safety and quality of life; therefore, ARP funding as provided through the City, County and State will maximize our abilities to establish these truck routes away from our residential and/or historically sensitive areas. The health of especially of our children needs to be protected as pre-existing and post COVID health concerns exacerbate asthma rates and other illness evidenced in neighborhoods subject to environmental and air quality risk statistics. ESTABLISHING TRUCK ROUTES ADDRESSES A NEED THAT HAS BEEN IGNORED FOR TOO LONG. **These large trucks affect not only our lives and safety but also destroy our roads, cars, and the right to enjoy peace and tranquility as well. Dialogue and planning is needed with all levels of government to insure that protection of the health of our seniors and youth is safeguarded in a post-COVID future.**

G. Increase Safety, Police Visibility & Security

1. **Establish “visible” Police presence** in our “forgotten” neighborhoods.
2. Have NPO's (Neighborhood Police Officers) expand visibility via **bike patrols, walking the “beat”**
3. **Fund “shots fired” in our “forgotten” neighborhoods**
4. **Re-establish “Mini Police Stations”** in our “forgotten” neighborhoods.
5. **Improve DPD phone service and accessibility to communicate w/Community Relations.**
Note: voice mail is often “full” so no new messages may be left.
6. **Establish DPD “intervention –meetings” between neighbors** to resolve complaints/issues peacefully.
7. **Provide financial incentives for Police and Fire new hires to live** in our “forgotten” neighborhoods of District 3 with homebuyer subsidies. Their visible presence will also help them better understand our “neighborhood” issues and will outwardly raise safety and security levels in our residential areas.

8. Intervention and coordination with City Departments, DLB, and DPD to **deal with and eliminate “squatters” in abandoned properties.**

Working Premise: Our “forgotten” neighborhoods are more “at risk” for incidents of crime; Therefore, ARP funding shall be used to fund programs that will increase Police visibility and Response time. These measures will help alleviate the mental strain of dealing “alone” through the 16 months of the COVID pandemic. They will also provide new degrees of safety for our Seniors, as a more visible Police presence will help them realize that “someone” is looking out for them. This ARP funding will insure that OUR “forgotten” neighborhoods will be able to enjoy the same measures of safety, security and well being as other sections of the City and/or the suburbs, after stress of lockdowns from the COVID pandemic.

H. Restore and Increase Public Services

1. **Restore City staffers in Forestry Dept.** to increase tree trimming services in berm areas and stump removal.
2. **Sidewalk repairs at no cost** for tree damaged sidewalks or sidewalks that were never replaced when a home was razed.
3. **Blight removal Special Funding GRANTS** – to empower residents and/or Block Clubs to either hire contractors or buy their own equipment, insurance, and pay Neighborhood crews to cut and clear alleys, **clear DLB blighted properties**, commercial strips or other abandoned properties or highly visible areas. **CLEAN IT UP with allocation of needed resources.**
4. **Funding to print and distribute flyers to Residents** – a checklist on “how to be a good neighbor” i.e. Ethical Quality of Life Standards – no parking commercial vehicles, trailers boats, heavy equipment storage, etc. on residentially zoned land or streets for extended periods of time.
5. **FIX OUR ROADS** – Residential & Commercial streets are full of pot holes and bumps.
Augment repair work w/State and County Funding Sources. *Target Areas: 7 Mile/Outer Drive at Valero Gas Station; 8 Mile & Van Dyke intersection; Standing water on Van Dyke Curbside at Lipke Park between Bliss & Suzanne Streets; Van Dyke sewer drains, where water collects along curb, north and south of Outer Drive; Six Mile (E. McNichols) from Van Dyke to Mound Road; E. Outer Drive @State Fair intersection to correct standing water;*
6. **Re-OPEN Six Mile !!! Use infrastructure funding from City, County, and State to do it.**
Ongoing closure of Six Mile has led to the demise of shops & services from Kelly to Davison Freeway.

Working Premise: OUR NEIGHBORHOODS have become blighted and our quality of life diminished with the lack of the above services. **It is time to restore them w/ARP funding as a means to heal pre and post COVID pandemic related side effects.**

I. Recreational Programming Needs w/ARP Funding

1. **Restore the nine mile route of the Conner Creek Greenway** that was minimized With the loss of the St. Jean Route Connector to benefit Chrysler expansion and Reduction of the Conner Playfield to benefit Northpoint Development, as well as other sections of the route on E. Outer Drive and Van Dyke. **Replace missing Trees and Bike Trail signs along E. Outer Drive**, or wherever needed to protect the integrity of the Conner Creek Greenway and the safety of non-motorized riders.
2. **Designate Milbank Conner Creek Greenway to be maintained by City General Services** as they do with other Greenways in the City.
3. **Expand the Joe Louis Greenway to connect with McKay/Modern Park, Jerome Street And East Nevada so it will provide linkages** to John R Community Park, new State Fair parks, Palmer Park, Conant Gardens, Village of Norris, and the Conner Creek Greenway.
4. **Keep Lipke Park and Fletcher Field City of Detroit Parks.** Keep Maintenance UP!
5. **Acquire the Van Dyke vacant lots at Bliss Street to accommodate a new children's play** area to compensate for the loss of the original one at Lipke Park which will be lost when the proposed Matthew & Kelly Stafford SAY PLAY Mentoring Center will be built at Suzanne Street
6. **Assist redevelopment of the McKay-Modern Park at Six Mile**
7. **Establish traveling Play Mobiles** so area youth, even those with special needs can "play on their block" under supervision of a City Staff Play Leader.

Working Premise: OUR Neighborhoods of District 3 have been decimated with the creation of the I-94 Industrial Park along St. Cyril, Huber, Miller, Harper and Mt. Elliott. 12 acres of Lodge Playfield has been removed from the City Parks' Inventory. Yet, 100% UTGO funding bonds and other funding benefit creation of new parks and improve *other* parks, OUTSIDE OF OUR FORGOTTEN NEIGHBORHOODS OF DISTRICT 3, while OUR neighborhoods of District 3 continue to decline with LOSS OF amenities. **ARP funding to support our recreational needs, as mentioned above, is only fair and just. Further, due to the fact that some roads, such as Outer Drive, are under the jurisdiction of Wayne County, ARP funding through the County should also be pursued as a way to cost-effectively meet needs and listed goals.**

J. Redevelop Bel Air Center w/City & County ARP Funding

1. **Purchase 40 acre site and redevelop into a multiple, mixed-use site** that will enhance the quality of life of OUR District 3 neighborhoods, our City, and Counties of Wayne & Macomb.
2. **Build a "state of the art" Well Being Recreational, Occupational, Physical Therapy and Mental Health Facility with Olympic size swimming pools, therapy pools, art, music and other therapies to accommodate children, families, seniors and veterans.**

3. **Nestle this “Well Being Facility’ in welcoming green space with Zen gardens, walking paths, Picnic areas, a Band Shell for concerts, and to extend the Bel Air Theater with a Drive-In Movie Screen Area.**
4. **Restore small scale commercial shopping** in the style of Beaumont Hospital’s 13 Mile/Woodward design style and add holistic food, restaurants, bike shops, and/or orthopedic support services.
5. **A business or convention center or Senior Center** that services Wayne and Macomb Counties could also be added.

Working Premise: The COVID pandemic has increased needs for mental health treatments for all ages. The Well-Being Center and Redeveloped Bel Air Shopping Center would greatly benefit ALL as a multi-purpose, inter-generational, dual County site. It would restore lost recreational facilities, enhance property values and contribute to the OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE FOR NOT ONLY DISTRICT 3 RESIDENTS BUT those of Wayne and Macomb Counties as well. ARP funds and EDA funds available through collaboration of both counties would contribute funding to make this project feasible.

K. Preserve District 3 National Register Historic Sites and Cultural Areas

1. Fund architectural design and other resource help to **promote revitalization of the the 1873 P.W. Norris House and Village at Nevada & Mt. Elliott.**
2. Fund resources to **preserve the Sarah Elizabeth Ray House** on Woodlawn as a National Historic Threatened Site.
3. Recognize the **Sojourner Truth Homes, Conant Gardens area, Pershing High School** and Conner Creek for their unique histories.
4. **Promote the cultural diversity of Banglatown ,48212 zip** code which is part of District 3 and nearby Hamtramck, with its 40 different ethnic groups.
5. **Promote Chaldean Town (Zip Code 48203)** as another example of District 3 diversity
6. Record and establish a **Data Base of ‘other’ historic homes in District 3.**

Working Premise: District 3 has unique historical assets that need to be preserved and marketed. For example: the Norris House has direct ties to Yellowstone National Park through the Norris Village founder P.W. Norris. The Ray House on Woodlawn has significance in that Ms. Ray in 1945, took her civil rights complaint of not being allowed on the Bob Lo Boat to the US Supreme Court and won. This continues to be a landmark case and her Woodlawn home contains her original letters and other artifacts. Sojourner Truth Homes, a Federal Housing Project on E. Nevada also marks another site of a civil rights landmark case. Likewise, the Conant Gardens neighborhood, Pershing High School and Chaldean Town are historic and cultural landmarks, as is the newest artistic neighborhood mural project at the Water Reservoir on Davison & Dequindre. Banglatown and Chaldean Town also add to our “forgotten” neighborhood’s ethnic diversity. Historically, Conner Creek is also notable as a free

flowing stream that “was conquered” and suffered the fate of serving today as the major conductor of SE Michigan sewage system. The Tuskegee Airmen sculpture at Coleman A. Young International Airport also links the Airport, built on Conner Creek to also recall still another chapter of this area’s historical past. Singularly and Collectively, ALL of these become unique assets that make District 3 a special place to live that can be marketed to increase its historical, economic, and cultural values and legacy. In summary, even in a COVID pandemic, history needs to be celebrated and preserved.

L. Restore our Commercial Corridors – Main Street Concepts + Improve Industrial Corridors

1. KEEP IT CLEAN!

EACH business MUST clean and maintain their property from the Middle of the Street to the middle of the ALLEY. Even weeds, if cut, will look like “grass” . IF business owners don’t maintain because of COVID ...**ARP funding could be used to hire more city inspectors AND/OR fund “neighborhood trust” so contractors can be hired to “do the job”.**

Precedence exists as ongoing maintenance is funded to maintain Downtown.

2. Façade Improvement Matching Fund Grants – this will provide incentive for businesses to remodel and improve storefronts and/or add landscaping.

3. Establish Tougher, Exterior Maintenance Standards for ALL Businesses as part of their Certificate of Occupancy. Prohibit use of “junkyard fencing” or Railroad box cars as acceptable fencing. This would promote use of “neutral” building colors, enhancement landscaping, litter control, signage and attractive fencing as seen in “suburban models”.

Why not here?

4. Plan for sustainable and “walkable” (20 minute neighborhoods).

5. Establish a Commercial Corridor Marketing Campaign

a.) *Promote Slogans* for OUR neighborhood commercial corridors:

“SHOP THE MILE” . . . 6 Mile, 7 Mile, 8 Mile

“ UPTOWN EAST”

“SHOP NORTHEAST”

b.) **Market available space** via a Data Base Directory to attract new entrepreneurs. Provide small business start up grants to establish innovative new businesses as a way to recover the demise of businesses from COVID; however, resident community needs to be involved in the approval process to insure that there is business compatibility with neighborhood operating standards” and land use zoning.

Working Premise: Our Northeast Detroit “forgotten” commercial corridors, like our “forgotten” neighborhoods have been on the decline. **However, with ARP funding,** E. Davison, E. McNichols, State Fair, Conant, our Six Mile, Seven Mile and 8 Mile commercial corridors and others are well positioned to welcome new entrepreneurs and innovation, IF steps are taken NOW to reverse the intentional decline and overcome the financial strains of coping with the COVID pandemic.

M. “Restore NED” – OVER ALL Marketing Campaign

1. Residentially, Commercially, & Industrially – District 3 POTENTIALLY has it all.
2. **With tours, data base listings, virtual promotions, and special events PROMOTE the uniqueness and value of our “forgotten” neighborhoods** in terms of history, cultural and artistic values, cleanliness, and community visionary planning and Implementation.

Working Premise: With ARP Funding, conduct a Market Campaign to promote our quality housing, our newly revitalized, welcoming commercial corridors and entrepreneurial spaces, our unique historical and cultural sites, visit our artistic murals and see green technologies implemented, industrial spaces “beautified” and citizens engaged in all aspects of the planning and design process. OUR “forgotten” neighborhoods will be a showcase model, of how ARP funding eliminated “disparities” and promoted social and economic equity to change “forgotten” into “welcoming” and “desirable” neighborhoods.

Manifesto Foot Note: Our “forgotten” neighborhoods place a high priority on keeping our schools and libraries open to provide first-rate, restored excellent educational and outreach services; therefore, we request that the millage rates that were approved by voters NOT be siphoned to augment other City priorities. We also look to our Detroit Public Schools funding entities to utilize their ARP dollars to work with our “forgotten” District 3 neighborhoods to design, plan, rehab and restore our “boarded” abandoned schools into productive community use and restore educational programming. The COVID pandemic has stressed our “forgotten” neighborhoods even more but with ARP funding allocations, we know “we shall overcome!”

This Restore NED District 3 –“Forgotten Neighborhoods” Manifesto has been compiled by:

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