

14. Community Support – Casa Indiana

Constituent involvement has been a central component of HACE's success since its founding in 1982. Our first project, HACE Mall, was the result of community residents, businesses and community organizations requesting our assistance. HACE believes that its Board and Staff are advocates for change. This is demonstrated by their participation on various boards, coalitions and committees that promote community rebuilding such as the Empowerment Zone, Philadelphia School District, Business Associations, Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation, and other public and community organizations. It is this belief that has guided HACE and led to the development of a resident driven Neighborhood Strategic Plan, which now drives HACES activities. Resident involvement and communication in HACE is reflected in many facets, including Board of Directors participation, staff outreach, resident councils and committees, and volunteerism in our many initiatives.

Fully over 22 community organizations/groups within the target area were provided with information regarding the Casa Indiana project. Request for letters of support for the project were submitted along with details regarding the project's design and purpose. Letters of support were received by various organizations detailing the importance of providing this much needed senior housing opportunity and the positive impact this project will have on the surrounding communities. Refer to supporting documents at the end of this section.

A community meeting was facilitated on November 17, 2014 at HACE's Business and Visitors Center to provide a forum for local Community Based Organizations (CBO) to identify areas of concern with regards to the design and development of this project. In attendance were local organizations such as: community residents, JFK behavioral Health Clinic, Providence Center, Taller Puertorriqueño, Congreso de Latinos Unidos, and the Childrens Crisis Treatment Center. A presentation was provided outlining the various features of the proposed project along with the buildings many amenities. During the course of the meeting Ms. Maribel Rivera, in attendance on behalf of JFK Behavioral Health Clinic, indicated the need for the projects targeting of residents with disabilities and applauded the projects decision to provide opportunities for senior community residents to age in place. Attendees provided positive feedback surrounding the project and were eager to know as to when the development would reach completion. Details regarding the community meeting and resulting resident questions/comments and petition of support can be found in at the end of this section.

HACE is the local Registered Community Organization for the area, governed by the Planning Commission of the City of Philadelphia, and will follow the notification guidelines required to inform current residents and public housing residents in the vicinity of the proposed development in spring 2015. As with our other affordable housing development activities will continue to notify the community of the proposed as follows:

1. Hand deliver fliers to every property within 200 feet of the property notifying residents of the proposed elderly housing development and plan to enter into a Mixed Finance Transaction with PHA.
2. Schedule a second public meeting to solicit feedback from the community on the proposed affordable housing development.
3. Advertise public meeting in local newsprint media.
4. Record and report feedback from public meeting.