

## What facilities or services should the City of Bloomington invest in to improve your community for future generations?

### Transportation

- This idea stood alone—not for lack of interest or need in the group, but just because conversation became more focused on other topics
- We had the discussion about the need for safe, well-lit places to walk and ride bikes. Many Latinos ride bikes to get to work but don't know safe biking practices.
- The frequency of buses and adequate bus routes is a huge need.
- A woman also shared the story of her two kids who currently bus to Richfield public schools from West Bloomington (98<sup>th</sup> and France area) every day—it takes 1 hr 45 minutes each way (I encouraged her to enroll them in Bloomington schools...)

### Pipes

- Water pipes
- Sewer pipes

*Group discussion here focused on frustration at rented properties—not understanding who to go to with concerns, whether it was landlord's responsibility or city's responsibility when there is flooding in townhomes (Georgetown) and apartments. This most often happened after hard rains.*

### Security

- More equality for men\*
- [Street] lighting
- More vigilance [by police] is needed near where I live [by Valley View school] because they [youth] are committing a lot of crimes (mostly vandalism)\*\*

\*This comment was made by a man who is dealing with physical, verbal, and emotional abuse from his ex-wife (of both self and children) who shares custody of their three children. He has reported to police, school counselors etc. and child services cases have been opened only to be closed due to insufficient evidence. He is frustrated by the system and doesn't understand how to remove his children from a potentially dangerous situation.

\*\*This person reported several interactions with police where her and her husband called to report vandalism as it was happening and first were told that [the operator?] couldn't understand their English, and then passed between four people before being connected with someone who spoke Spanish (not sure if this was staff or an interpreter). The police then asked if the couple reporting the crime could go talk to the people committing the crimes because the police thought they knew them (which they didn't and said they didn't feel comfortable doing) and then by the time the police did come it was too late. This is a frequent occurrence near their house.

### Health

- Sports facilities\*
- Reevaluation by the city to see if the owner [of rental properties] needs to remodel apartment complexes [to comply with environmental health code]\*\*
- Community clinic
- Fumigation (extermination of bed bugs, specifically)

\*There was a lot of discussion about how expensive it is to enroll kids in sports, especially when many families have several school-aged children. They would also be interested in accessing sports facilities to organize their own leagues but don't know how to do that and worry it would be too expensive too. Everyone was saying they are willing to pay money for sports leagues but the current prices are just too prohibitively expensive.

\*\*If I could sum up a major theme of this conversation it would be renters rights and/or renters advocacy. People don't know their rights and often live in seriously unsafe conditions because they are worried about what will happen if they complain either to their landlords or to the city. People are economically and socially vulnerable, and can't afford to move either by their own choice or by forced eviction as retaliation for.

\*\*\*Many parents are uninsured even if their kids have insurance.

\*\*\*\*See \*\* above

## ***How should the City of Bloomington welcome, support and engage the Latino community over the next 20 years?***

### **Communication**

- Centralized information to get questions answered\*
- Radio\*\*
  - Radio Rey, La Invasora
- Put more information in churches and food shelf\*\*\*
- Through social networks\*\*\*\*
- Through kids at school\*\*\*\*\*

\*Everyone loved the idea of having a centralized resource like in Minneapolis (311) that you could call to get answers to city service/ordinance questions.

\*\* When I asked folks where was the number one place where they heard about things happening in the Latino community, they said on the radio. They thought this would be a really great way to get the word out to the Latino community.

\*\*\*People seen the Bloomington Briefing but can't read it because it is only in English. Interestingly, they said that the Briefing used to be available in Spanish—someone at the city used to translate and send it out to non-profits, who then distributed to residents. This ended abruptly, not sure why...

\*\*\*\*Facebook primarily—again, having posts and videos in Spanish would be necessary for this to be an effective engagement.

\*\*\*\*\*This was probably a close second to the radio in terms of good ways to share information with Latinos. Most people have kids in Bloomington schools and parents are paying close attention to what is coming home with their kids.

### **Entertainment**

- Having a Latino fair (“kermés”)\*
- Latino events\*\*
- Events/programming that represents the community
- Organize events in the apartment complexes [where Latinos live]\*\*\*

\*Mix between a fair and a carnival with games for kids, vendors, food etc... these are traditionally done by churches or schools in Latin America as a way to raise funds but are also beloved community events.

\*\*I asked people if they had ever been to the Performing Arts Center (or Civic Plaza for that matter) and people didn't even know that we had these amenities or what they were for. People got excited about bringing Mexican folkloric dancers, or other entertainment acts. They also didn't know that these could be potential spaces they could use to organize their own events.

\*\*\*This had been a tactic used by a local nonprofit at Georgetown but it wasn't well advertised/ promoted and people didn't know when they would be there so the turnout wasn't great. With better promotion, this could be a good outreach tactic.

### **Language**

- More information in Spanish
- Write city ordinances in Spanish\*
- English classes

\*There are so many nuances to city code. People don't know information and then get in trouble for not following the rules. For example, where do you bring yard waste? What is the maximum height of grass?