



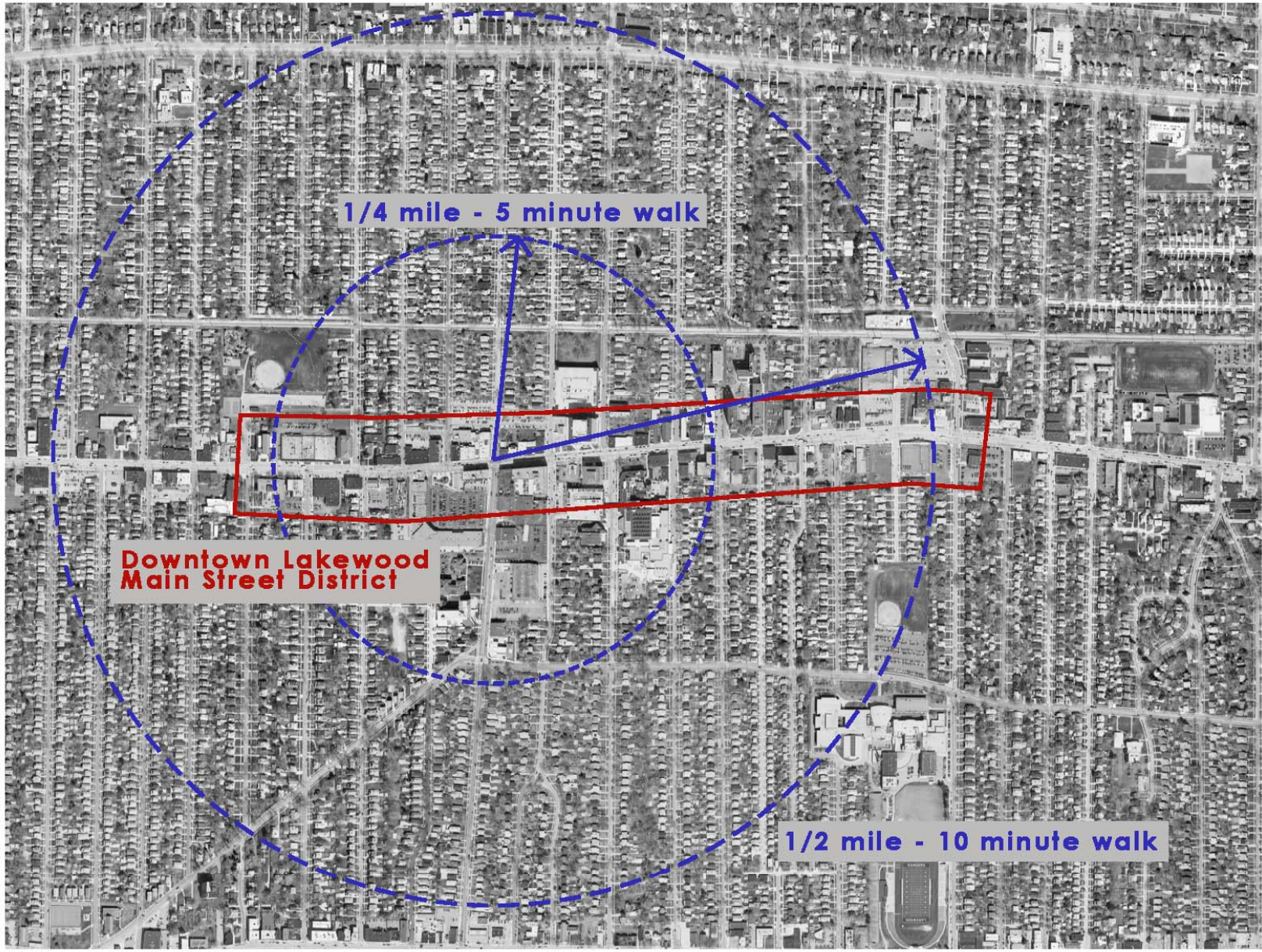
Citizens Advisory Committee  
Housing Outreach Services Presentation

August 18, 2009

# LakewoodAlive

- **LakewoodAlive** is a 501-c(3) tax-exempt community development organization
- **LakewoodAlive** is dedicated to facilitating economic development in the City of Lakewood by leveraging community assets and facilitating collaboration between stakeholders.

**LAKEWOOD**  
*CITY*  
*OF*  
*HOMES*



1/4 mile - 5 minute walk

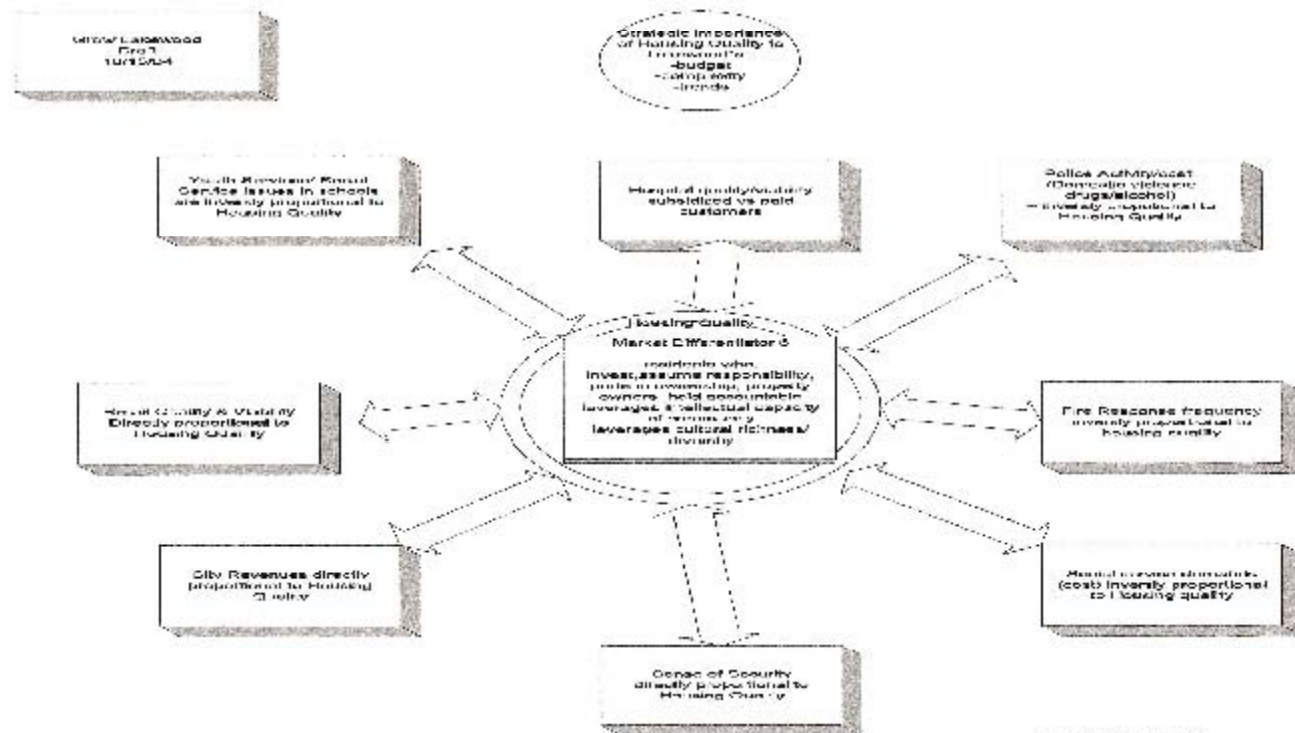
**Downtown Lakewood  
Main Street District**

1/2 mile - 10 minute walk

# LAKEWOOD *CITY OF HOMES*



# Housing Quality - Lynchpin to Other City Service Requirements



July 2005

Grow Lakewood Committee

Market Differentiator 3  
- 40 months...  
housing to fit all phases of life,  
many programs for living and to thrive

## LakewoodAlive Forums

April 2005

*Housing: The Lynchpin to Lakewood's Future*

## Grow Lakewood Report

July 2005

*" ..the city must adopt a housing strategy designed to preserve and improve our housing stock for the second century of ownership."*

## Lakewood Housing Report

October 2007

*"...emphasis must be placed on not only enforcing the code, but on helping people comply with the code."*

# Lakewood Food Stamp Recipients\*

January 2005	December 2008	June 2009	%Change <u>4.5 years</u>	% Change <u>6 months</u>
4,721	5,687	6,342	+34.3%	+11.5%
County suburbs:			+39.4%	+12.7%

More than 125,000 Cuyahoga County households are now receiving services through EFS. An additional 19,000 households receive benefits via other county departments. This **total number** represents the **highest** number of households **ever** served by Employment & Family Services. Also, **for the first time ever**, more than 100,000 households are now receiving Food Stamps through EFS\*.

\*County Employment & Family Services Data

# **LakewoodAlive**

## **Housing Outreach Services**

**Exterior maintenance  
education & resolution  
for low-moderate income  
residents.**

# Housing Outreach Services

This outreach program **helps** those who have the **fewest resources** to assure that our housing stock is well maintained for the benefit of everyone who calls Lakewood home.

# Activity-to-date

## Cleveland Marshall Law Fellowship Sarah T. Dixon

- Identification of 600 houses with maintenance issues
- Compilation of resource reference binder
- Representation at block watch meetings
- Outreach to Building Dept and Judge Carroll

# Activity-to-date

**Housing Outreach Director**

**Hilary Schickler – July 13, 2009**

- Housing Court monitoring & follow-up
- Coordination with Building Department inspectors
- Letter to 100 residents
- Outreach to Block Watch Captains
- Meetings with Council Representatives

# PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE

- Operation Paintbrush Program Provides residents with free paint and labor for the exterior of their home. Applications are taken once a year during the fall for the following year's painting season. Eligibility is based on family size and family income.
- 3% Owner Occupied Home Improvement Loans To improve and renovate their homes.
- 5% Rental Restoration Loans Provides owners of rental properties loans to improve their properties.
- Deferred-Deferred 0% owner occupied home improvement loan for residents 65 or older.
- H.E.L.P. "Home Enhancement Loan Program" Low-interest home improvement loans offered in this program from Cuyahoga County Treasurer James Rokakis and the Cuyahoga County Commissioners.
- Improvement Target Area Provides rebates for qualified exterior and interior improvements to property owners on targeted streets regardless of income.
- Home Improvement Grant Income eligible owner occupants may receive rebates for qualified exterior home improvements.
- Heritage Home Loan Program Low-interest loan program for owners of older and historic homes in a program from the Cuyahoga County Treasurer, County Commissioners and the Cleveland Restoration Society.

# Housing Outreach Services

- Outreach assistance is **city-wide** for all low-moderate income residents. **Initial focus on low-mod census tracts.**
- **Liaison with block watch** groups to identify neighbors who may benefit from services.
- Provide eligible owners and renters in violations with **information and direction** re: available government assistance.
- **Coordinate** with to City Building Department & Prosecutor's Office.

# Housing Outreach Services

- **Minimize** number of inspections & citations
- Through community meetings, **residents will be educated** re: housing code and be **resource** for identifying residents who might benefit from services.
- Building Dept. will direct exterior complaints to LakewoodAlive, which will follow-up **early** in the process to determine **low-mod eligibility** services.
- Court will **require assistance training** for eligible violators, and ask LakewoodAlive to testify when appropriate.



August 3, 2009

XXXX

XXXX

Lakewood, OH 44107

As a property owner in the "City of Homes" we hope you share our interest in safeguarding Lakewood's beautiful (and often historic) architecture that makes our community so special. To help protect our housing stock, LakewoodAlive has launched a new outreach program.

LakewoodAlive is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) economic development organization. *We are not City employees or connected with Lakewood Building Department. We have received federal block grant funds to provide this service*

Your property located at XXXXXX may have exterior code violations. Areas that need attention may include \_\_\_\_\_.

We want to work with you and your neighbors across the city to assure the curb appeal of Lakewood housing is attractive, inviting and well maintained. This work will help safeguard your investment and advance Lakewood's economic growth and stability. Small maintenance items left unattended can turn into major, high-cost overhauls. Also, minor issues at one house can have a major impact on the property values on an entire street.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss resources that may be available to you. Please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience to learn about these options.

Sincerely,

Hilary J. Schickler  
Housing Outreach Director  
216-521-1554 (direct)  
[hschickler@lakewoodalive.com](mailto:hschickler@lakewoodalive.com)

Enclosure



### **The Missing Link**

LakewoodAlive helps people with current or potential housing code violations by educating them about resources that can help them maintain their home's exterior condition.

Low-Moderate income residents are provided with education and resources to help minimize citations, protect our housing stock, and improve the quality of life for all Lakewood residents.

**for more information  
visit [lakewoodalive.com](http://lakewoodalive.com)**



**lakewoodalive**

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# **Housing Outreach Services**

Program Assistance for  
Low-Moderate Income Residents



**lakewoodalive**

BEFORE



AFTER



# Housing Outreach Services

- A **disproportionate** percentage of wealth is tied to home-ownership for low-moderate income residents. A free market is not necessarily a fair market for these individuals.
- By bringing houses into code compliance, the tax value of our **residences** will be **protected**.
- These efforts will **prevent** the emergence of blight and **general deterioration** of our neighborhoods.

**THANK YOU!**



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