

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Public Meeting #1
July 14, 2009

Imagine that you leave the First Ward today and come back in 2020...

What aspects of the neighborhood would you hope remain the same?

- The presence of small businesses along Clinton Street.
- On-going Front Street renovations have been completed.
- Houses and presence of families have been maintained.
- Same diversity of land uses have been preserved (i.e. 45.5% residential).
- Racial and ethnic diversity of the neighborhood still exists.
- Sense of safety within the neighborhood.
- Heritage of the First Ward continues to be recognized and celebrated.
- Strong sense of community.
- Ability of residents to take advantage of its close proximity to downtown Binghamton.
- Residents will still have access to public transit options.
- First Ward Park is still present and maintained.
- Multi-generational neighborhood with strong traditions.
- Senior Center is still open and thriving.
- First Ward still has easy access to major highways.
- There are still a multitude of diverse churches present within the First Ward, which contribute to neighborhood diversity.
- Spring Forest Cemetery is present and maintained.

What aspects of the neighborhood would you hope have changed?

- A grocery store and/or pharmacy is present in the neighborhood.
- Re-development of the Anitec site.
- There is a museum to celebrate and interpret the history of the First Ward neighborhood.
- Manufacturing and factories have returned to the neighborhood as they originally were – people live and work in same neighborhood.
- Empty and dilapidated properties have been eliminated and/or rehabilitated.
- There is a stronger police presence to reduce crime.
- There is special needs housing and supervised recovery housing available.
- Streetscape enhancements and aesthetic improvements made on Front Street and Clinton Street.

- Gateways from the City into the First Ward have been improved.
- The empty storefronts on Clinton Street and Glenwood Avenue have been filled with small businesses, cafes, and upper story apartments.
- The crime rate has been lowered.
- Parks and recreational areas are better distributed throughout the First Ward to create better access for area youth.
- More options for youth.
- The sidewalks along Prospect Street (and throughout neighborhood) have been replaced and improved.
- Fewer absentee landlords and property owners.
- There are more options for senior housing besides nursing homes and assisted living facilities.
- There is greater accessibility for handicapped residents (more ramps, ADA compliance, etc.).
- Improvements to the rail underpass.
- Passenger rail travel has been brought back.
- There is more parking on Clinton Street.
- Poor/dilapidated buildings have been converted to parks or recreational spaces.
- There are community gardens and a community center.
- Rail underpass has been fixed.
- Outdated drainage has been fixed.
- Junkyards in the neighborhood have been eliminated.
- Traffic calming measures have been implemented on Clinton Street to promote visitation to area businesses.
- Utility lines have been buried.
- Titcheners property has been converted into a community garden.
- Re-pave and widen area roads for better access.
- Charles Street Business Park has been fully developed.
- There are soccer fields and a skateboard park for neighborhood children.