

## Principles of Neighborhood Socialization and Civility.

### CHARACTER NEIGHBORHOODS CARE ABOUT EDUCATION, HEALTH AND SAFETY.

Society is based on the presumption that we will all abide by similar rules and customs of civil behavior. The physical design of communities and neighborhoods acknowledges the requirement for a civil society. City and neighborhood design attempt to create buildings and places having features that promote sociability and civility within the accepted framework of society.

### THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIALIZATION.

- **Mutual expectations.** Successful neighborhoods have commonly held expectations that its members will behave in a similar manner in terms of sociability and civility, i.e., friendliness, consideration, supervision of children, maintenance of homes and tolerance of diversity. To ensure that everyone has the same community expectations, community visions and standards are periodically set through a consensus of stakeholders with open discussion.
- **Broad-based respect for rules of behavior.** The neighborhood needs to agree to abide by the local ordinances, standards, restrictive covenants, rules and other agreed-upon ideas for public behavior in order to protect cultural and property assets and to support association management and governance.
- **Traditions and celebrations.** Practices repeated often enough become ingrained in community folk lore, such as, caroling, new neighbor welcomings and parades. Rituals are the fiber of friendliness.
- **Mutual respect for community assets, education and culture.** Schools, parks, community places and spaces demand respect and care that require consistent community attention and expense.
- **Trust.** Trust evolves through experiences based on the shared values of life, feelings of safety, security and freedom. Trust in neighborhood and civic leaders is earned through years of responsible service.
- **Capacity for self-reliance.** Successful neighborhoods have or develop the capacity to solve problems, to fund physical and social infrastructure and to help one another in times of emergency. This community confidence usually leads to better decisions, reduced tensions and increased civic pride.
- **Ubiquitous connections.** Neighborhoods have multiple connections to adjacent neighborhoods, commercial districts and the city. Strong neighborhoods participate in local community activities, shared experiences between neighbors, awareness of opportunities to better the system and the appreciation for volunteers.
- **The common belief that public spaces matter.** Parks, public places, sidewalks, post offices, libraries, schools, cafés and shops are all places that solidify the neighborhood through formal and casual encounters.
- **Common interest in fun.** Neighborhoods with character have humor and joy. Proud places have a softness that exudes strength and good humor. Character neighborhoods have the confidence to lighten up; to exude pride with a smile as the virtues of the neighborhood are shared and enjoyed.