

Davis: Choice plan, neighbors changing Avondale

By Ozie Davis III 2:10 p.m. EST December 27, 2014



An infill development called Northern Townhomes is expected to be Avondale's first new market-rate housing since the 1990s.

Ozie Davis III is executive director of the Avondale Comprehensive Development Corp.

In 2015, the Avondale Comprehensive Development Corp. wants to concentrate on further stabilizing the real estate and commercial development markets in Avondale and Uptown while continuing to enhance relationships in the community around health and wellness, education, and safety to make Avondale a neighborhood of choice.

We have been able to accomplish great things in Avondale because of the spirit of collaboration. Our founding principle of "shared value" is the key. Working with anchor institutions, businesses, faith based-institutions and residents on resident-led priorities we have shaped an opportunity for Avondale to return to glory.

Increases in population, home values, homeownership rates, employment and median household income are all indicators of what we see the future holding for those in our community. A dramatic decrease in crime, infant mortality, asthma-related illness, obesity-related disease and unnecessary injury all factor into what we see as winning here in our corner of the world.



Ozie Davis

A focus on valuing education is as important as our desire to see increased educational attainment, and this is definitely possible with an attention to early childhood education like that being promoted by the Strive Partnership with the Preschool Promise. I agree with former Mayor Dwight Tillery and the Center for Closing the Health Gap that a good job is a great road to good health, and we will continue to focus on connecting Avondale residents to opportunities to find good wage-paying employment. Our partners at the Urban League, Community Action Agency, Easter Seals, Cincinnati Works and Hamilton County Office of Re-Entry provide the platform to lead to success there.

Our work in the neighborhood rests on our Know Your Neighbor initiative. We must continue to concentrate on encouraging profit-bearing relationships between neighbors. We are making headway here. Some say that things like "spreading love," "hope" and "faith," are soft commodities hard to measure, but we are committed to continue

to hold up these spiritual elements because we know the battle is a spiritual one when it comes to depression, trauma-induced mental illness and drug addiction.

This type of community building is like the strong brick foundations found in many of the older homes here in Avondale. Requesting that neighbors set the standard for living in the neighborhood is hard work, but it's work we are committed to and that we see developing into its own language in 2015.

Beyond deep neighborly ties, we must continue to tie our development of Avondale into the overall development of Uptown. This requires continued good working relations between ACDC and the Uptown Consortium. The development of the Northern Townhomes is one indication that this relationship works, and Cincinnati Children's Hospital's Home Improvement Program is another.

Development activity has started in the Choice Neighborhood Transformation plan led by The Community Builders (TCB), and our partnership with the Urban League, Cincinnati Public Schools, Center for Closing the Health Gap and TCB is critical in seeing that Choice residents are the change we need in Avondale.

When we talk about the ability to progress residents from one station to a greater one, there are no greater resources available than those found in the five buildings that make up Choice: The Somerset, Maple, Poinciana, Alameda and Crescents. That stretch of Reading Road will be forever changed when we're done, and 2015 hosts the real first look at this transformation.