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Paulsboro PRIDE Quarterly Newsletter

Hello Gene,

Welcome to the Paulsboro PRIDE Neighborhood Revitalization Plan Project! Over the past year, we have participated in many community engagement activities including attending pop-up events, hosting community conversations, conducting interviews and facilitating a community survey. We are thrilled to present to you a summary of those events, crafted with the collective spirit and enthusiasm that defines Paulsboro PRIDE and Raider RESPECT.

Paulsboro PRIDE Vision Statement

“Moving Paulsboro Forward” By Working Together For the Betterment of the Paulsboro Community Through Neighborhood Revitalization.

Paulsboro PRIDE Neighborhood Revitalization Plan DRAFT: Soliciting Community Input and Comments from February 5 through March 5, 2025



Paulsboro PRIDE Neighborhood Revitalization DRAFT Plan is available and open for public comment. The public is invited to provide feedback on the draft neighborhood revitalization plan in two ways- by providing written feedback through email, or by attending a public information session. There will be a Community Open House session held on February 20th from 5-7pm at Second Baptist Church Paulsboro. Additionally, there will be two workshop sessions held at Gateway CAP's Social Services Office and one that will take place virtually on Zoom. During the sessions, attendees will receive an update on the plan and have the opportunity to provide feedback during each

information sessions. To provide comments on the draft plan electronically, please email comments

to PaulsboroPride@gatewaycap.org. For more information, please visit our website www.gatewaycap.org/PaulsboroPride. The Paulsboro Pride Neighborhood Revitalization Plan Draft can be found [HERE!](#)



Meet Our Paulsboro Pride Plan Assistants

Elsie Rivera: Elsie moved to Paulsboro 4 years ago from Camden. She states that when she first moved to Paulsboro, she didn't know what to expect. One thing that stood out was that it's a family-oriented community which made her want to get involved. She likes the Paulsboro Pride Neighborhood project and loves giving back to the community by helping make a positive impact to others. Elsie states "People always complain that the town needs change and I want to be a part of that change".

Shaquitta Davis: Born and raised in Paulsboro, Shaquitta is a mother to three beautiful children. Her reason for being excited about working on the Paulsboro Pride Neighborhood project is that she loves engaging and communicating with the people in the town. She loves to make and see the change within the community. Shaquitta states "It feels good to know that we have the opportunity to change the lives of the youth and bring better opportunities to them."

Paulsboro Pride Team works with local Senior Citizens Center



The Paulsboro Senior Citizens Club has been a great partner of the Paulsboro PRIDE Neighborhood Plan team during the planning process. From hosting our Community Conversation events, to allowing us to partner with them in their Thanksgiving programming efforts, it has been a pleasure working with them and hearing their thoughts on the history of the community, and how we can work together to continue moving the community forward. To support digital literacy among our seniors, Gateway donated 2 computers for their use. The computers will allow the senior center to host computer classes and help teach members basic computer skills. We thank the President, Mrs. Mary Harris for her support and commitment to helping the senior citizens who reside in the Paulsboro Community.



Lighten Your Load Laundry Event

Paulsboro PRIDE Neighborhood Revitalization Plan team in partnership with the Paulsboro Community Care Closet, a local grass-roots organization, hosted a Lighten Your Load Community Event at the Paulsboro Laundry Mat. Attendees were invited to come and share their thoughts about the neighborhood plan and the future of the community. Those who participated received a free wash/dry laundry load. Working together with other local small businesses and organizations allows us to reach more community residents and bring additional resources to those within the Paulsboro community.

Youth Engagement Events Empowering the Future Leaders of the Community!



Youth involvement in the planning process has been a key to the success of the planning effort. From the Summer Youth Planning Camp to the "Paulsboro Proud" video project, having the support and voices of our youth has been instrumental in the work we have done in the Paulsboro community. Our goal is to host events that teach the youth that civic and community engagement can be both meaningful and fun. Through the youth surveys, engagement exercises and events, we have gathered feedback from our youth about things they would like to see in the Paulsboro community. We continue to partner with other local organizations and businesses within the community to help provide needed services for our youth. Partners such as the Paulsboro Boys and Girls Club have been vital to engaging with our youth during the planning period. As we move towards implementation, we plan to continue engaging our youth, empowering them to be the next generation of leaders in the community.

Chat and Chew: The Paulsboro PRIDE Neighborhood Plan team hosted a Chat and Chew event at Qunicin's Pizzeria, a local small family-owned business within the Paulsboro Community. This event aimed to foster positive interactions and strengthen community ties among the young teens in the community. The team spoke with the youth about their ideas for the future of our community, played Paulsboro Community Trivia, and the youth completed surveys to share their thoughts and experiences. Over 85 teenagers attended the event, enjoyed some delicious slices, and contributed to making our community even stronger.

Teen Night: 35 local teens joined us for an engaging day discussing the future of the community.

The teens also participated in fun, team building games and activities. In partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Paulsboro, our plan is to work together to provide fun and meaningful activities for the teens in the community.



**Youth Doing Their Part to Help Keep the
Community Clean**



Community beautification and clean communities is vital to the revitalization of a community. We continue to participate in the two Paulsboro Community Clean-up events hosted by the Borough of Paulsboro, as well as, host additional cleanups throughout the year that help to keep our parks, recreation areas and public spaces clean of trash and litter. Our dedicated community volunteers and members of the Steering Committee help in this effort, working with our youth to keep the community clean.

Paulsboro Pride Steering Committee: Local Residents Dedicated to Improving Their Community



Paulsboro PRIDE Neighborhood Plan team is comprised of both staff and dedicated volunteers who serve as members of the grant's Steering Committee. Made up of individuals who reside in the Paulsboro Pride Neighborhood, this committee helps to guide the development of the neighborhood plan by participating in community events, sharing information about plan progress with their friends and neighbors, and by being "street advocates" who speak up for the needs of those who reside in the neighborhood. The committee is made up of residents from various backgrounds, both native and new to the community, who are interested in working with their neighbors to improve the community. The Steering Committee meets bi-monthly and helps to direct the day-to-day planning process. All members are dedicated to the Paulsboro community and want to be a part of the change happening in the community.

Community Thanksgiving/Holiday Events- Paulsboro PRIDE team supports and hosts a number of events during the months of November and December 2024



During the holiday season, the Paulsboro PRIDE Neighborhood Plan team participated in

numerous events throughout the community. From participating in the Borough sponsored Tree Lighting Ceremony and Friendsgiving events, to partnering with other organizations such as Joel's Joy and the Paulsboro Community Care Closet, the team was busy doing our part to help make the holidays brighter for local children and families.

Gateway and the Paulsboro PRIDE Neighborhood Plan team would like to express our gratitude to the generous sponsors who supported our holiday outreach in the Paulsboro community. We are grateful to the individuals and businesses who donated items such as food baskets, toys, and coats to families in our Shop With A Hero and Angel Tree programs. Your contributions have helped us support over 200 children and families this holiday season. We sincerely thank each and every one of our neighbors for their generosity and support.

Community engagement has been the center of our efforts during this planning process. Working with local organizations and stakeholders and businesses have helped us to provide support and resources to community residents who need it most. We are committed to the overall improvement of the Paulsboro community and vow to work tirelessly to help revitalize and bring the PRIDE back to the Paulsboro community.

Paulsboro PRIDE Neighborhood Plan Team Participates In Paulsboro Community Trunk or Treat Event



The Paulsboro PRIDE Neighborhood Plan Project team participated in the annual Paulsboro Trunk or Treat event in October 2024. Staff and volunteers engaged with residents, gathering feedback on their ideas for the community while distributing candy and treats to the youth in attendance. We also organized a “Candy Guessing Game,” allowing attendees to win a prize for correctly guessing the amount of candy. The team enjoyed interacting with residents and hearing their thoughts and insights on how to advance Paulsboro. Paulsboro extends our gratitude to the ladies of the ELKS

Lodge for their volunteering efforts, and to the members of our Steering Committee who all decorated their trunks and participated in the festivities! This event was in partnership with the Paulsboro Police Department and Volunteers of America who led the event planning effort. We thank all those who were involved in making this event a huge success and look forward to working together in 2025 to bring to again host this amazing event in the community.

Paulsboro PRIDE Neighborhood Plan Team in Partnership with Rootie's Bistro Hosts Breakfast With Santa



The Paulsboro PRIDE Neighborhood Plan team partnered with a local small business Rootie's Bistro to host Breakfast with Santa for local children. The team loved interacting with the children and families in attendance and witnessing so many happy smiles. The event featured breakfast, photos with Santa, toys, crafts, coats, and giveaways—all provided free of charge to the children. Supporting small business and working with local business owners is a major goal of the neighborhoods planning effort.

FEBRUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Notes
1 PAULSBORO PRIDE!						1	Important Reminders: Public Comment period for Neighborhood Revitalization Plan DRAFT opens February 5- March 5. Community Meeting 2/20 at 5:00pm Youth Council Events- 2/9 and 2/21 Energy Assistance Event 2/28 11:00am-5:00pm
2	3	4	5 Public Comment Period of Draft Plan Opens	6	7	8	
9 Super Bowl Pre-Party 1-4pm Boys & Girls Club	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 BLACK HISTORY MONTH	
16	17	18	19	20 Community Meeting Paulsboro Borough Hall 5-7pm	21 Galentines Day Karaoke Night Boys & Girls Club	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28 Energy Assistance Event 2/28 Gateway CAP 11:00am-5:00pm		

www.gatewaycap.org/PaulsboroPride Like us on Facebook: Paulsboro Pride Neighborhood

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, Feb. 20 5-7pm

Second Baptist Church
1540 Swedesboro Ave.
Paulsboro, NJ 08066

This open house event will showcase draft strategies for the Paulsboro Pride Neighborhood Plan which were shaped by community feedback gathered throughout 2024.

Drop-in at anytime between 5-7pm to explore the draft strategies and share your thoughts. Food & drink provided!



RSVP is suggested but not required. Attendees can email: PaulsboroPride@gatewaycap.org or call/text 856-392-6785

The Paulsboro PRIDE Neighborhood Plan represents a crucial step forward in shaping the future of our community. With the support of the Regional Foundation and the NJ Department of Community Affairs NRTC Program, Gateway Community Action Partnership and Interface Studio are working with Paulsboro neighbors on a comprehensive neighborhood plan for the community. The neighborhood plan will help to guide improvements and investments to make the community a better place to live, work and play. The plan is community driven and resident-led and includes what the residents would like to see in their neighborhood.

Contact us at PaulsboroPride@gatewaycap.org if you are interested in learning more!
Please like/follow new Facebook page and share with your friends and neighbors!

Gateway Community Action Partnership

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