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**Private Sector**

Park & People  
Pennrose Development Corporation

*Thank you to all the realtors, Member Organizations, and other organizations who supported the Council's events throughout the last year!*

# Reservoir Hill Improvement Council



*Welcomes you  
to its*

*2007 Annual Meeting*

**People Powered Change!**

*Keynote Presentation:*

*Marvin "Doc" Cheatham*

*President, NAACP Baltimore City Branch*

*23 October 2007*

*Maryland Zoo Mansion House*

*Druid Hill Park*



*Improvement Council, Inc.*

## *Educate, Organize, Mobilize*

*RHIC's approach is to aggregate the power of local associations and institutions by organizing a community-wide infrastructure through which we educate residents, train community leaders, promote mutual support among community associations, develop common perspectives and strategy, advocate to city and state leaders, and mobilize people in collective projects and campaigns.*

*RHIC's application of this strategy takes five main approaches*

*Train community leadership, and provide organization and leadership in community planning.*

*Attract an influx of new residents with sufficient resources to rehab key structures.*

*Integrate new arrivals with current residents and engage the new arrivals in a community effort at addressing poverty.*

*Advocate for policies and programs that ensure that revitalization benefits the majority low-to-moderate income population of Reservoir Hill, including quality, affordable housing, improvement of needed services, improvements in public education, and increased representation and leadership.*

*Link Reservoir Hill issues and needs to city and regional campaigns.*

## *Order of the Evening*

*Buffet dinner is available from 6:30 pm—8:30 pm  
Catered by Andy Nelson's Barbeque*

*Musical performance by Jazz Encounters*

*Welcoming Remarks—John Ruffin & Remington Stone*

*People Powered Change in Reservoir Hill  
—John Ruffin & Frank Patinella*

*Introducing Doc Cheatham—Harry X. Peaker*

*Keynote—Marvin Doc Cheatham*

*Leadership for Tomorrow—Board of Director Elections  
Presentation of the Candidates and Collection of Ballots*

*Candidates: Rodel Bailey-El  
Orin Hackett  
Terrance Hancock  
Chukes Okoro  
Richard Pazornik*

*Awards—Richard Gwynallen*

*Election Results Announced*

*Farewell Remarks—John Ruffin*

*A special thank you to Howard P. Fink for preparation  
of the photos you see around the hall.*

**RHIC's ability to monitor developments in City programs** enabled RHIC to identify an inappropriate abatement of more than

650 Vacant Building Notices, and work to get most of them restored while also getting the City to improve their processes around issuing and tracking Vacant Building Notices. The same capacity led to RHIC staff being able to get improvements to the SCOPE program, such as a homeownership addendum and improved monitoring of rehabs.



**RHIC initiated the community's first Green Master**

**Plan.** The Green Master Plan provides a general framework to guide community greening activities. By analyzing the physical layout of the community, strategies can be developed to improve public safety, sanitation conditions, and



other common community concerns.

**Two new block clubs formed on Newington Avenue and on Whitelock Street. Both of these clubs have instituted active programs.**

***RHIC released a Reservoir Hill Resident's Handbook to give residents an easy-to-use resource for information on how to address a variety of common neighborhood needs.***

***RHIC launched a new website that is now averaging more than 800 visits a month and is receiving very positive feedback.***

## *The Year at a Glimpse*

*Over this last year there has been a rising level of resident activism, significant investment in community improvement projects, a growing RHIC profile city-wide, and both progress and challenges as regards eliminating the number of vacant buildings in Reservoir Hill. Consequently, RHIC has been able to mobilize more community action, link more residents to public decision-making, train and field more community leadership than previous years, and have its staff, Board members, and volunteers a presence in more hearings and task forces than in any previous year. This following is a brief glimpse of the past year.*

**Two new resident leadership teams made a difference**

*The Development Monitoring Team* monitors the major development projects. The Team publishes an email newsletter, *Housing News & Notes*, to report on projects to the community.



*The Advocates Circle* is a network of residents that responds to city and state policy issues. The Advocates Circle was responsible for mobilizing the most resident action on City and State policy initiatives in Reservoir Hill in recent years.



**Reviving the hub of the community** has been placed back on the table as RHIC secured funding for market and architectural design specification studies for re-development of the

Whitelock Street Corridor. The studies will commence this fall with community participation.

**RHIC advocates worked on successful city-wide campaigns** to pass Inclusionary Housing legislation , an alley gating ordinance, and eviction reform, and in the General Assembly, to maximize school facilities funding. Community associations need to get local problems addressed by having the capacity to articulate the voice of their communities in city and statewide arenas.



**The rehab of vacant properties in Reservoir Hill built in momentum.**



Nearly 80 vacant houses have been brought back on line since 2002. Sixty-one Use & Occupancy permits were issued in 2006 alone.

**Code enforcement has been stepped up on**

**privately-owned vacant houses,** with receivership emerging as an important tool. Of the 124 privately-owned vacant houses in Reservoir Hill, 42 properties are at this time under some form of code enforcement legal activity, and 40 more are under rehab



**RHIC created a proposal for rehab of vacants for moderate income homeownership** to rehab 10 city-owned vacants on a street characterized by vacant buildings.

**RHIC secured improvements in the design of Project SCOPE:** After RHIC's advocacy around the SCOPE



Homeownership Addendum and other matters, such as zoning and permits, HCD staff announced that an internal task force had been developed to deal with each of those concerns.

**This period has seen more than \$100,000 investment in community improvements** through RHIC's

Greening Reservoir Hill program, a program that has engaged more than 125 volunteers this year. Two capital projects and four smaller



improvement projects have been completed. The program secured \$250,000 City funding for renovation of the park at 751 Reservoir Street.



**A tenant organizing drive** is building a voice for Reservoir Hill renters. The last surviving tenants association in Reservoir Hill, Lakeside Towers Tenant Association, has been strengthened. A new

tenants association in Madison Park North Apartments has formed. An association of the tenants of the Renaissance in Reservoir Hill is expected to hold a first meeting before the end of 2007.