5.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Where Do We Go From Here…
5.1 WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE

Immediate Steps – Priorities

The Vision Team, made up of Aldine community leaders, has prioritized and selected the projects that the community will implement. Although some projects will be selected for implementation immediately, most will not begin for several years. The implementation measures consist of strategies to achieve the community’s goals and recommended activities. With the use of an Aldine Community Development Corporation (CDC), a governing body can be formed to advance the development of Aldine. It should be recognized that as conditions change, implementation strategies should be revised.

Community Development Corporation (CDC)

Community Development Corporations (CDC’s) have been key players in urban renewal programs for decades. Many redevelopment projects and activities include economic development, affordable housing, housing rehabilitation, community development and revitalization. The Aldine area is the location of two CDC’s, Aldine CDC and Greater Urban Redevelopment Corporation.

CDC’s popularity in solving problems of the community has grown over the past years, especially among private charities and foundations that increasingly favor and support projects that work directly within the community. CDC’s have developed a good reputation for improving depressed areas and bringing up the economic base in many communities. The public and political perception of CDC’s is excellent, therefore there is reason to believe that they will assume an even greater role in programs targeted to revitalizing depressed communities around the country. In fact, recent trends show that CDC’s may become the dominant organizational structure that private charities and government programs will support in the future to deal with community development initiatives.

Community Housing Development Organization

The purpose of the Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) is to provide a full range of opportunities to communities in need of housing. They encourage neighborhoods to organize and develop affordable housing projects in their areas. CHDO’s are private non-profit organizations that have among their directives, the provision of decent housing that is affordable to low- and moderate-income persons. The CHDO is certified by Harris County or the State of Texas as having met all the requirements of the Housing and Urban Development-HOME guidelines for the creations and management of a CHDO.

CHDO certification is dependent on the organization and structuring of the organization under HOME regulations, and must develop, own or sponsor the
HOME-assisted housing. The CHDO must have project control regardless of which capacity it serves (as owner, developer or sponsor). A CHDO may use HOME funds for all eligible HOME activities such as:

1. Acquisition and/or rehabilitation of rental housing,
2. New construction of rental housing,
3. Acquisition and/or rehabilitation of homebuyer property,
4. New construction of homebuyer property, and
5. Direct financial assistance to purchasers of HOME-assisted housing sponsored or developed by a CHDO with HOME funds.

The following are ineligible set-aside activities, but may be carried out by a CHDO as a sub-recipient:

1. Tenant-based rental assistance,
2. Homeowner rehabilitation, and
3. Brokering or other real estate transactions.

**Incorporation**

Texas Law requires an area to seek annexation before they opt for incorporation. The law specifically states that “incorporations will be discouraged where a municipal government already exists adjacent to the area”. We must include Aldine in this category. However if Aldine’s asks the City of Houston for annexation and is rejected by the City, according to State law a move for incorporation would be permissible.

Positive factors for Aldine’s drive for incorporation would be numerous. There is a need in Aldine for additional services and controls. The needed services can be shown to be most quickly and economically provided by incorporation. Incorporation would not conflict with the logical growth of adjacent cities. The action does not represent an attempt to incorporate only revenue producing territories to preempt neighboring cities. Due consideration should be given to the effect of incorporation upon adjacent landowners, governmental agencies, and the County. To calculate the benefits and costs of incorporation for Aldine requires information about these crucial factors.

1-the potential tax revenue in the area identified for incorporation
2-the cost of services and controls to be provided in the area
3-information about the financial status of the MUD's that serve the area to be incorporated.
Community Involvement

Community involvement represents the willingness of residents, businesses, lenders, government, and educators to move forward together. No plan can be successful without the support and commitment of the residents of the community. Likewise, residents are much more likely to support a plan in which they have invested time, energy and opinion. Thus, the Aldine Community Plan was developed almost entirely through the participation of the community.

The Aldine Community Plan is intended to be a dynamic revitalization plan, one that responds to the changing needs and conditions. Plan amendments should not be taken lightly. The needs and desires of the community are an important element for the revitalization of the Aldine Community. The Aldine Community should encourage community involvement in a variety of forms as part of its revitalization efforts. Resident participation should take many forms, from educational workshops and training, to testifying at public hearings, or serving on boards.

The Aldine community has been committed to revitalization efforts for the community for some time now. The community has been instrumental in redevelopment efforts including: developing legislation for a special taxing district, submitting grant proposals, construction of sidewalks on Aldine Mail Route, and developing partnership agreements with the Health Department, Harris County Sheriff’s Department, AISD, Business Chambers, County Commissioner’s, U.S. Attorneys, Harris County Community Development Department, Texas Department of Transportation just to name a few.

Public Investment

It is important to recognize that a Community Plan is not implemented or funded all at once, but rather projects should be developed on an incremental basis. The Aldine Community Plan offers strategies and potential funding sources to assist residents to improve their community. The Aldine community should identify funding organizations that best fit their projects and submit grant applications. Foundations, various grants, and partnership agreements at the National, State, and local level can offer extensive funding opportunities. Harris County Community Development Department can act as a source in identifying funding sources compatible with projects developed by the community.

Aldine Plan

The primary purpose of the Aldine Community Plan is to assist in resolving the community’s problems with a systematic approach. The intention of the plan is to be used as a guide to renew resident participation and bring together the needs and resources of the community. The document is a long-range plan for the general
public and policy-makers to improve the conditions of the community. By adopting the guidelines set forth, Aldine can effectively plan for the future.

The Plan is one vision of what the community can become. The goals and strategies identified in the plan are derived and supported by residents who participated in community meetings. Proposed actions described in this plan were also drawn from an assessment of existing conditions and future projections of development in the area. The Aldine Community Plan should serve as a basis to empower the community, obtain funding, and focus the actions of the community.
6.0 Plan for Success

Proposed Projects
# 6.1 Proposed Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Development Corporation (CDC)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Residents, business leaders, civic organizations, local chambers of commerce, community leaders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hold a community wide clean up day followed by a celebration or picnic.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>CDC, civic organizations, residents, businesses, AISD, Fire and Sheriff’s Depts, local clinic, local chambers of commerce</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop design theme and construct community gateways and subdivision markers.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Local CDC, CAN, residents, businesses, architect firms, landscaping firms, contractors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish leadership training for CDC managers and community involvement.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Local CDC, University of Houston-Continuing Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote job fair for specific populations (youth) and jobs skills.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Local CDC, civic clubs, career centers, AISD, residents, North Harris County Community College, Small Business Association, Merchants' Association.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Precinct’s and Harris County’s Engineering Dept to construct “speed humps” in neighborhoods with excessive cut through traffic.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Engineering Depts of Harris County and the Precinct, Local CDC, businesses, residents.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educate the community on various programs that will assist with housing options, home purchase and home maintenance.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Residents, local CDC, HCCDD, HUD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set-up a homeownership program and/or partnership with existing programs in the area.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>HCCDD. Corporation for Economic Development, Housing Opportunities for Houston</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reinstate the Coalition of Aldine Neighborhoods (CAN) to serve as the nucleus for information sharing throughout the community.</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Local CDC, Aldine community</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Local CDC’s, Residents, businesses, housing developers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify areas in need of sidewalks and streetlights especially those areas around schools and commercial</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Local CDC, AISD, Harris County Sheriff’s Dept., Texas Dept of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>Priority</td>
<td>Partners</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organize a merchant’s association to improve and develop Aldine commercial centers.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Local businesses, CDC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a community newsletter through CAN to dispense community information and development of a community calendar</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>CAN, residents, businesses, CDC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply to Gulf coast Careers to assign two or more job training counselors to work with Aldine residents.</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Local CDC, Gulf Coast Careers, residents, businesses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify local business in need of personnel and match with local students that want employment opportunities</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Local CDC, civic clubs, career centers, AISD, residents, North Harris County Community College, Small Business Association, Merchants’ Association.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a building contractor databases using reports by the Better Business Bureau for Aldine residents and business owners.</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Local CDC, CAN, residents, businesses, contractors and contractor associations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Metro for re-routing of bus system in Aldine to provide better access for residents to jobs, schools and commercial centers.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Metro, CDC, Businesses, residents, AISD, North Harris County Community College</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a partnership with Precinct’s and Harris County’s Engineering Dept to develop a Capital Improvements Plan for the Aldine area.</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Engineering Depts of Harris County and the Precinct, Local CDC, businesses, residents, Harris County Flood Control.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategically plan for new affordable housing construction such as infill housing, townhomes, and patio homes on vacant sites.</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Local CDC, CHDO, residents, contractors and developers.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enforce the existing curfew through county Sheriff’s Dept and Neighborhood Watch programs in Aldine.</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Aldine Storefront, County Sheriff’s Dept, Neighborhood Watch programs, civic clubs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a plan for a community wide trail system linking parks, residential areas and commercial centers.</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Local CDC, CAN, residents, businesses, Harris County Parks and Recreation Dept, Engineering Depts of Harris County and the Precinct, Landscape Architects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.0 APPENDICES

The Aldine Community Planning Process
Urban Design Charette Illustrations
Neighborhood Resources
Incorporation and Annexation Facts
Community Meeting Surveys
Glossary of Terms
Sources Cited
7.1 THE ALDINE COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS

Harris County 2000
Aldine Community Process
Timeline of Community Events
HARRIS COUNTY 2000

The Harris County 2000 process for the Aldine Community was created to correlate with the consolidated planning policies for the Harris County. As such, the Neighborhood Community Plan for Aldine is representative of the Consolidated Plan for Harris County. The approach also ensures successful community development throughout HCCDD's service area.

According to the 1990 Census of Population and Housing, 1,002,969 persons reside in HCCDD’s service area, which is comprised of unincorporated Harris County, as well as 15 cities that have cooperative agreements with the county. In total, HCCDD has targeted 49 low- and moderate-income communities with the Harris County service area for redevelopment with a total population of 149,100 persons. Nine of those communities are located in incorporated areas.

Community Development plans for target areas, such as the Aldine Community Plan, represent a new approach to area wide development in Harris County. By planning to meet the needs of all targeted areas and through continued development of alliances and partnerships to provide additional resources, the Harris County Community Development Department HC2000 is making a new commitment to comprehensive community development. HC2000 is a community-driven process that provides residents, businesses, local leaders and potential investors with a revitalization plan that addresses the vision and strategies for a community.

Like the county as a whole, the vast majority of HCCDD’s targeted communities have developed without planning. This includes Aldine. Planning in target areas requires a thorough analysis of needs and resources in order to develop goals and strategies for health, housing, infrastructure, community enrichment, economic development, education, public safety, and community activities.

The planning process through HC2000 is meant to provide the community with an infusion of spirit and confidence in their ability to creatively solve problems in a manner that results in an active, successful, and self-sustaining environment. HC2000 relies on innovative methods of local participation to strengthen community support, and input in the process. HC2000 has three phases 1) Awareness and preparation, 2) Actual development of the plan that consists of community meetings to garner community input, and 3) Implementation of the plan.

Benefits of HC2000 Neighborhood Planning

There are many benefits to the HC2000 Neighborhood Planning process.

- Empowers and excites the community, and pulls together diverse community forces that promote positive community development.
- A basis for obtaining funding from federal, state, local, and private foundations, since the plan represents a well
thought out and clear strategy for redeveloping the area, along with a comprehensive focus. Most governmental entities fund organizations that have strategic plans that show overall benefits for funding projects.

- HC2000 focuses on action, forges partnerships, and includes the development and empowerment of a local organization to guide the process once the plan is complete.

**Harris County Community Development’s Role In Aldine**

HCCDD has long been an active partner in improving the quality of life for Aldine residents. In addition to the development of the Aldine Community Plan, HCCDD has provided more than $5 million toward the following projects in the Aldine area:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Type of Program</th>
<th>Amount Funded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Streets, Drainage &amp; Walkways</td>
<td>Capital Improvement Projects</td>
<td>$422,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Equip., Emergency Medical Corps.,</td>
<td>Capital Improvement Projects</td>
<td>$738,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Driver Park Impr., Crowley Park Dev., Land Acquisition</td>
<td>Capital Improvement Projects</td>
<td>$713,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardy Street Camp Senior Citizens Ctr., &amp; Construction, James Driver Comm. Center</td>
<td>Capital Improvement Projects</td>
<td>$3,062,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water &amp; Sewer Improvements</td>
<td>Capital Improvement Projects</td>
<td>$286,671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunbelt Freshwater Supply District</td>
<td>Capital Improvement Projects</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldine Leadership Initiative</td>
<td>Public Services</td>
<td>$38,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldine Weed &amp; Seed Task Force</td>
<td>Anti-Crime Program</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Driver Playground Equip.</td>
<td>Public Facilities</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HC2000 - Aldine Community Plan will be the fourth in a series of plans completed by HCCDD. Completed plans include Barrett Station, Huffman, and Galena Park/Jacinto City Community plans.

**ALDINE COMMUNITY PROCESS**

The Aldine Community had never before created a complete planning document to assess the needs, resources, goals, and strategies of their community. Thus a comprehensive analysis of Housing, Economic Development, Education, Health, Public Safety, Infrastructure, Community Enrichment, and Senior and Youth programs was needed. Focus on four planning areas (making places, creating work, building a strong foundation, accessing services) is addressed in the Aldine Community Plan.

This focus allowed for better understanding by Aldine citizens of planning methods and philosophy. The planning process created an opportunity for extensive community participation from Aldine residents, businesspersons, educators, and civic leaders. The strategic planning process is designed to inspire the residents of Aldine to creatively solve their problems. The Aldine Community Plan is not only a roadmap to area revitalization, but an innovative approach to rebuilding the community through participation at the local level, and the development of a plan of action. Strategies are outlined for improving housing, infrastructure, economic development, arts and culture, public safety, recreation, health and education.
The primary purpose of the Aldine Community Plan is to resolve the community’s problems with a systematic approach. The intention of the plan is to be used as a guide to renew resident participation and bring together the needs and resources of the community, as a means of establishing funding priorities, and as a basis for achieving economic development strategies in revitalizing the area.

Throughout the neighborhood planning process, HCCDD facilitated the development of the Aldine Community Plan to aid in the empowerment of the Aldine community. Staff began preparation of the Aldine Community Plan in the fall of 1998 and completed the document stage in summer of 1999. The following summarizes the preparation of the plan and the overall results.

**Initial Assessment**
An initial assessment is compiled to analyze pertinent information for the Aldine Community. The initial assessment provides an inventory and assessment of the community and provides the following information:

- Demographic and population characteristics (historic, current and projected)
- Income and wages
- Economic base and employer information
- Census Data (1990 US Bureau of Census Data, SAM Projections)
- Land Use
- Educational facilities, school enrollment and projections
- Community facilities and services
- Public health and medical care facilities

**Public Awareness and Outreach**
Public awareness and outreach is essential for the development and success of a community plan. Outreach efforts were coordinated throughout the community. Mechanisms for disseminating public information included the following activities:

- Public service announcements prepared and issued to Aldine’s local newspaper the Northeast News and the Houston Chronicle;
- Articles and notices submitted to civic groups and homeowners associations for publication in newsletters;
- Performing public presentations throughout the Aldine Community;
- Displaying flyers throughout the community, churches and Aldine ISD school system; and
- Developing partnerships with area churches, local businesses, law enforcement, area elected officials, civic and homeowners associations, and clubs for support for the Aldine Community Plan.
Vision Team

At the onset of the process, HCCDD created a Vision Team, similar to a steering committee to assist with the preparation of the plan. This team is comprised of community leaders and decision-makers already committed to revitalization efforts of the Aldine community. At the beginning of the process, the Vision Team was given a step by step guidebook developed by HCCDD containing the layout of the entire planning process for the Aldine Community Plan.

The Vision Team is responsible for generating support and awareness amongst the community for the planning process, providing guidance, community involvement, facilitating breakout groups at the community meetings, and the implementation of the plan upon completion. Members are also instrumental in the overall development of the draft and final plan document.

HCCDD scheduled monthly meetings with the Vision Team throughout the entire process to discuss and plans upcoming events, updates throughout the process, and final preparation of the plan.

Throughout the planning process, the Vision Team was prepared for all upcoming events. Mock community meetings were setup so the Vision Team could be trained as facilitators of the breakout groups. Presentations were also conducted, and training material was distributed to prepare the Vision Team for the Aldine Community planning process.

Furthermore, the ultimate charge of the Vision Team is to develop a mechanism to implement the Aldine Community Plan projects. So that the Aldine community can qualify for various types of grant opportunities, the development of a Community Development Corporation (CDC) can be beneficial.
Community Meetings

Community meetings targeted all neighborhoods, residents, stakeholders, clubs, merchants, churches, community organizations, and business leaders. The community meetings provided an opportunity for the residents of Aldine to identify their issues and concerns for their community. In the months of November 1998 - February 1999, community meetings were held at the Aldine ISD schools, civic associations, and clubs throughout the Aldine community.

The community meetings provided an opportunity for residents to discuss their issues and problems relating to specific topics of concern. To make the planning process user friendly, topics were consolidated into four categories. The four categories includes:

- **Making Places**
  Housing, Community Facilities, Parks and Green Spaces, and Overall Urban Design.

- **Creating Work**
  Employment, Job Creation, and Workforce Development.

- **Building a Strong Foundation**
  Water and Sewer Improvement, Flood Control, and Road, Sidewalk, and Trail Improvement.

- **Accessing Services**
  Education, Public Health, Public Safety, Youth and Senior Activities & Services, Homeless Services, and Additional Civic Enrichment Activities.

Residents were asked to breakout into different groups based on topics of major concern. Breakout groups were also conducted in Spanish for bilingual residents when needed. As a result of a dozen or more children present at one of the community meetings, staff took them aside and had them identify their issues and
concerns for the community as well. A children’s group provided insight into the needs of Aldine youth.

After all issues and problems were recorded and identified, residents were asked to develop priorities using a dot exercise. The priorities would be recognized as the prioritized goals for the Aldine community.

To further explain the process, each group compiled a list of concerns, and a card containing 3 adhesive dots was given to each resident. The dots were used to identify and rank the issues and concerns according to their importance. Residents were asked to place the dots next to their most important issue. These responses were tallied and ranked, and identified as each group’s prioritized goals and needs. The concerns are listed in detail in the upcoming sections of the plan.

Community surveys were issued at all the meetings requesting comments about specific demographic information and plan issues. These surveys were beneficial in identifying the communities needs and concerns.

**Aldine Urban Design Charette**

The *Urban Design Charette* was the design element of the plan. It established a platform for free flow of information and opinion sharing. The primary purpose was to provide a forum for building community consensus on a vision for the future through active involvement and visualization – bringing the vision to life. It also provided a mechanism for debate over ideas, solutions and strategies to be developed. The *Urban Design Charette* was a tremendous benefit and exciting to the Aldine community. The process and outcome:

- Energized the community
- Generated strong citizen participation and motivation towards planning and the community development projects
- Enhanced communication within the community and increased awareness
- Brought community groups, experts and architects together to generate a common community vision and solve community problems
- Developed practical community development ideas based on citizen input
- Identified potential funding sources for community projects

The *Urban Design Charette* was one of the most exciting and dynamic aspects of the planning process. Residents, a team of experts, local architects, and students were invited to analyze, develop and design solutions to goals identified by the residents of Aldine.
Five tables were setup that included residents, experts representing professional knowledge of the particular planning group (making places, creating work, building a strong foundation, and accessing services), and a design team of architects in the middle. Discussion amongst the tables developed solutions and strategies for the prioritized goals identified by the residents of Aldine. For each planning group, experts and residents brainstormed ideas about the following:

1. Solutions and Strategies
2. Potential Partners (who can help)
3. Resources Available (grants, partnerships, foundations, etc.)
4. Timeline for Completion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planning Group</th>
<th>Solutions and Strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Making Places</td>
<td>1) Solving problems by developing strategies for action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Housing, Community Facilities, Parks and Green Spaces, Overall Urban Design.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building A Strong Foundation</td>
<td>1) Solving problems by developing strategies for action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Water and Sewer Improvement, Flood Control, Road, Sidewalk, and Trail Improvement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating Work</td>
<td>1) Solving problems by developing strategies for action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Employment, Job Creation, and Workforce Development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessing Services</td>
<td>1) Solving problems by developing strategies for action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Education, Public Health, Public Safety, Youth and Senior Activities and Services, Homeless Services, and additional Civic Enrichment Activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The design center and residents worked closely together by relaying information and ideas back and forth to the four surrounding tables. The design center was instrumental in bringing ideas and solutions to life. Residents were able to express their concerns and comprehensive designs illustrating solutions were developed. Overall comprehensive design solutions were developed using the common themes:

1. Affordable Housing Design
2. Linkages
3. Urban Villages
4. Façade Design and Improvement
The Urban Design Charette was an excellent opportunity to visually illustrate how a community could potentially look, and the framework for analyzing and designing solutions to urban ailments of the Aldine community.

Aldine Kick-off Celebration
The Aldine Kick-off celebrated the completion of the plan and all the hard work the community put into its development. Public service providers, Harris County Departments, and other agencies were invited to provide technical support and information sharing to the residents. Completed plans were also available.

The Aldine Community Plan Document
The Aldine Community Plan document is a multi-faceted document developed to serve as the roadmap for future growth and development for Aldine. The plan contains many components and serves numerous functions for providing information, identifying existing conditions, characteristics and community priorities. The Aldine Community Plan also establishes goals, objectives, and strategies regarding the character and scale of future development.

The document is a conclusive source of information regarding the existing and future conditions, and characteristics of the community. The plan contains several elements addressing population, environmental characteristics, education, land use, transportation, infrastructure needs, housing, public facilities, parks and open space, redevelopment, and economic development.
7.2 Urban Design Charette Illustrations

The Aldine Charette was very successful and presented several design ideas that would improve the quality of life in Aldine. Kirksey and Partners Architects completed the illustrations in Mid-July. They include schemes of bus spots, park improvements, streetscapes, community center, and trail system.
7.3 Neighborhood resources

What is a County
The county, in the United States’ system of government, is a governmental subdivision of a state, similar (except in political organization) to the manner in which a state is a subdivision of the country. Counties were created to carry out the administrative responsibilities of the states, during a time in history when there were very few large cities, and small towns were scattered. Even today, as many cities have grown to sizes that sometimes encompass entire counties, the county form of government remains a leading and often necessary way to deal with large metropolitan areas.

The Texas Constitution gave the Texas Legislature the authority to create subdivisions back in 1876, which resulted in the state of Texas being divided into 254 counties. Each county is divided into four Commissioner’s precincts and can have from four to eight Justice of the Peace precincts. While these and other positions within the county are elected, a county does not have the authority to establish its own laws. The Texas Legislature must enact special laws and ordinances for the county to enforce.

For more information, and for specific laws regarding the formation and regulation of counties in Texas, please see Vernon's Texas Statutes and Codes Annotated.

The administrative body of county government is the Commissioners Court. It is composed of the County Judge that is elected countywide, and four Commissioners that are elected by precinct, whose precinct represents one-fourth of the county’s population. The duties of the Commissioner’s Court include:

- Holding annual budget hearings and adopting the county budget;
- Setting the county tax rate;
- Appointing department heads, hiring employees, and filling vacancies of elected officials;
- Establishing voting precincts and naming precinct judges;
- Supervising the building and maintenance of county roads, bridges, parks, courthouses, jails, buildings and libraries;
- Letting contracts in the name of the county.

County Services Include:

Office of Public Infrastructure
Develops coordinated budgets, plans, and studies for planned county infrastructure projects. Includes the Toll Road Authority, Flood Control District and County Engineer.

Toll Road Authority To complete, operate and maintain the Hardy Toll Road and Sam Houston Tollway.
Flood Control District To construct and maintain projects to reduce flooding in the county. It designs flood control improvements, carries out capital improvement projects, maintains drainage facilities, approves subdivision drainage plans and provides flood watch and flood alert programs.

County Engineer Responsible for all phases of engineering and construction for county facilities, including buildings, parks, roadways, and traffic signals. Also issues development permits, operates the flood plain management program, and coordinates road bond programs.

Management Services
Divided into five offices.

Coordination & Budget Prepares the annual county and flood control budgets, special studies, and the regular agenda for Commissioner’s Court.

Human Resources & Risk Management Provides employment and training services, claims, loss control, insurance, and benefits administration, and compensation analyses.

Financial Planning Responsible for analysis, research and development of long-range financial business plans for county entities.

Management Studies Provides analyses and reports regarding county operations and management information.

Financial Services Responsible for bank relations, investments of funds, and coordination and monitoring of bond issues and debt.

Central Technology Provides planning and assistance for county departments in the distribution of data processing services and applications.

Facilities & Property Management Operates and maintains county buildings and leased facilities and oversees construction and remodeling projects and building security services.

Public Health & Environment Services Provides public health care services that include nursing, communicable and environmental disease control, dental health, health education, nutrition, sanitation, mosquito control, and animal control programs.

Community Development Department Assist in developing viable urban communities by providing affordable housing and a positive living environment to low to moderate income persons. The department offers a number of programs to residents in need of services.

Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Program To develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environment and by
expanding economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate income persons.

*Emergency Shelter Grant Program* Provides federal funds to local nonprofit agencies that assists the homeless.

*Home Investment Partnership (HOME) Program* Designed to increase homeownership and affordable housing opportunities for low and very low income persons.

*Section 8 Rental Assistance Program* Assists lower-income families to secure decent, safe and sanitary housing through Certificate and Voucher Programs.

*Shelter Plus Care Program* Provides federal funds to programs that provide five years of rental assistance to homeless people with serious mental illness, chronic problems with alcohol, drugs, or AIDS.

*Supportive Housing Program* Funds are used to make transitional housing and supportive services to homeless individuals and families for up to 24 months.

*Housing Rehabilitation* Provides financial and technical assistance to low and moderate income homeowners to pay for eligible rehabilitation work to improve homes.

*Economic Development* Provides loans for small business development. Microloan Program ranging from $500 to $25,000. Small Business Development Loans from $25,000 to $250,000. 504 Program with financing from $50,000 to $1,000,000 for asset-based projects.

*Community Assistance Programs*

*Emergency Assistance Program* Provides emergency financial aid to applicants that do not have financial resources to meet the need.

*General Assistance Program* Provides financial aid to persons who are medically disabled and without financial resources.

*ENTERP (Emergency Nutrition Temporary Emergency Relief Program)* Provides one time only assistance with food vouchers, rental and mortgage assistance, and utility assistance.

*FEMA Emergency Assistance Program* Assists persons with cutoff notice on their lights, water, or gas.

*Burial* Provides for indigent burials and low-cost funeral consultations.

*Transportation Program* Transportation to indigent persons

- Management Services;
- Central Technology Centers;
• Facilities and Property Management;
• Public Health & Environmental Services;
• Community Development (Which includes Gulf Coast Careers and Agricultural Extension Services).

Library Services
Youth and Family Services (include Domestic Relations, Juvenile Probation, Juvenile Justice Alternative Education program, Children’s Protective Services, Children’s Assessment Center and the Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority)

In the Administration of Justice, the county governs by the implementation of the following law enforcement officials, support services and legal entities:

• Constables
• County Sheriff
• Sheriff’s civil service Office
• Fire marshal
• Medical examiner
• County Clerk
• District Clerk
• County Attorney
• District Attorney
• Community Supervision & Corrections
• Pretrial Services
• Justices of the peace
• County Courts
• Probate Courts
• District Courts
• Courts of Appeal

Fiscal Services & Purchasing basically deal with all county finances and accounting control functions. This is accomplished by the following officials and departments:

• County Auditor
• County Treasurer
• Tax Assessor – Collector
• Road and Bridge Department
• Parks Department
• Precinct Administration

Source: Harris County Precinct One, El Franco Lee, Commissioner
7.4 INCORPORATION AND ANNEXATION FACTS

Incorporation

Texas Law requires an area to seek annexation before they opt for incorporation. The law specifically states that “incorporations will be discouraged where a municipal government already exists adjacent to the area”. We must include Aldine in this category. However if Aldine’s asks the City of Houston for annexation and is rejected by the City, according to State law a move for incorporation would be permissible.

The State of Texas has clearly established standards for incorporation. Meeting these standards increases the chances that a candidate would be viewed favorably. Aldine would have a mixed scorecard in this matter.

Among the positive factors for Aldine’s drive for incorporation would be these. There is a demonstrable need for additional services and controls. The needed services can be shown to be most quickly and economically provided by incorporation. Incorporation would not conflict with the logical growth of adjacent cities. The action does not represent an attempt to incorporate only revenue producing territories to preempt neighboring cities. Due consideration will be given to the effect of incorporation upon adjacent landowners, governmental agencies, and the County.

There are negative factors as well. The community is located adjacent to another municipality. The area to be incorporated is neither compact nor continuous. The proposed boundaries result in an area that is difficult to serve. The effect of incorporation on Special Districts must be considered.

A judgement about other factors requires further study. Is there a cost versus benefits justification of the proposed incorporation? Is there sufficient revenue to supply required municipal services?

The Benefits of Incorporation to the Citizens of Aldine

To calculate the benefits and costs of incorporation for Aldine we require information about these crucial factors.

1-the potential tax revenue in the area identified for incorporation
2-the cost of services and controls to be provided in the area
3-information about the financial status of the MUD’s that serve the area to be incorporated.

In the case of Aldine, information is not currently available about the cost of services and controls, as well as the potential tax revenue of the area to be incorporated. Studies must be funded
Annexation

Annexation in the Houston area is about sales and property tax receipts, utilities, and service levels. The Texas Legislature has enacted a series of annexation laws that make certain that a city must deliver the services they promise when they annex an area, that they do so in a timely manner, and that they listen to the demands of the citizens of a newly annexed area.

Cities such as Houston are now required by law to develop a service plan for all areas that they intend to annex. Houston must identify the specific services that they intend to provide and develop a timeline for their provision. The law requires Houston to provide police and solid waste collection immediately on date of annexation, and provide emergency and medical services as well as fire protection within 30 days of annexation (if provided by contract).

The City must also provide maintenance of wastewater, and water facilities, maintenance of public roads and streets including street lights, parks and playgrounds, and “other publicly owned facilities or services”, and EMS/fire protection if not provided by contract, all within 60 days. The City of Houston must provide the full range of services to the annexed area no later than 4.5 years after the effective date of annexation. According to law, the level of services provided to annexed areas must be the same as like areas within the city. In addition the law has established the right of unsatisfied citizens to challenge the city at the City’s cost to ensure that services are provided to them as the City promised. This new approach to annexation has meant that the City of Houston has had to move with great care to ensure that newly annexed areas can be well served as dictated by state law.

The new state laws that require the City of Houston to provide a full range of services and controls to newly annexed areas reduces Aldine’s chances for annexation. Current services and controls in Aldine lag significantly behind other similar areas within the City’s boundaries. If the City is to annex Aldine then it must bring the area up to speed with these other areas. Thus the City might well view an Aldine annexation as cost prohibitive. One might argue that a more economically developed Aldine would change this picture. The tax base of the area would increase, but still the overall cost of annexation in terms of providing services and controls might not be reduced sufficiently to cause the City to view annexation as a sound investment.

Initiatives for annexation require that the candidate obtain the written endorsement of 50% of the area’s electors (registered voters) as well as 50% of the property owners in the area to be annexed. Aldine would then submit the request to the City of Houston for approval. Should the City support the initiative the area would be annexed. The 50% requirement is a difficult one to meet. Local politics rarely reaches a level of interest, or even more difficult to attain a level of
support for action, that reaches this high threshold for action. Aldine, as most communities in the U.S., have yet to demonstrate this level of involvement in any local issue. Given this reality annexation of a segment of the Aldine community might well be more feasible.

Standards for City Annexations

According to Texas Law the standards for annexations are:

1. The boundaries of a proposed annexation must be definite and certain and must conform to lines of assessment whenever possible.
2. The boundaries of the area to be annexed will not result in any areas difficult to serve.
3. There is a demonstrated need for governmental services and controls.
4. The City has the capability of meeting the need for services and controls.
5. There is a mutual social and economic interest between the residents of the city and the proposed territory.
6. The proposed annexation is compatible with the City’s General Plan.
7. The proposed annexation represents a logical and reasonable expansion of the annexing municipality.

Segment Annexation

The law enables a segment (part) of an area to move for annexation. However, there are major hurdles to overcome in the process. Support for annexation in the segment must be high (see above). In addition the segment of the community to be annexed must include all of the land that the MUD in the area services. By law MUD’s can not under any circumstance alter the original shape of their service area when annexations occur. The boundaries for many segments of Aldine for annexation purposes are fixed when a MUD is first created. These boundaries can not be altered after the fact for any purpose even if it is beneficial to both Aldine and the City of Houston.

Aldine has an additional problem. The geographical focus for the City in matters of annexation is the MUD. The MUD’s in Aldine are complex geographically. Aldine’s MUD’s are highly fragmented with some sections outside of the Aldine community limits. The law that requires the City of Houston to annex all areas of the MUD then would require the City to serve numerous separate areas including some outside of the community’s borders.

In the past the City of Houston has been receptive to segment annexations. In these cases the MUD boundaries were far less complicated than the Aldine case.

Non-Served Area Annexation
Utility districts are the primary concern for a City in the annexation process. Texas law protects these entities from intrusion from outside forces such as Cities seeking to expand their boundaries. The utilities by law then are able to reject annexation demands by the city. Annexing non-served areas free the participants in the annexation process from the legal concerns about existing utilities. However the location of non-served land (removed from the City’s existing borders), land quality, and the cost of annexation for the City in the provision of services will likely become pressing concerns if non-served areas become the basis of annexation.

The Benefits of Annexation to the Citizens of Aldine

Annexation by the City of Houston would ensure the provision of many of the services and controls Aldine residents identified as necessary but lacking in their community. Among these are the following services and controls that they defined as high priority. The list includes these high-ranking concerns.

- Sidewalks
- Solid Waste Collection
- Streetlights
- Sewer and Drainage Improvements
- Parks
- Police Protection
- Fire Protection
- Emergency Medical Service

Annexation would require the City of Houston to deliver these items within 4.5 years from the date of annexation.

While the benefits of annexation to Aldine residents would be great, the costs of annexation to the residents would be low. The Harris County Appraisal District (not the City) would continue to assess property values thus alleviating fear about a major change in property taxes (costs) upon annexation. Given the above Aldine residents can be certain that the benefits of annexation in terms of needed services and controls will significantly outweigh the costs.
7.5 Deed Restrictions

Deed restrictions in Aldine neighborhoods are highly recommended and supported by residents for the revitalization and beautification of the community. Deed restrictions are written agreements that restrict, or limit, the use of activities that may take place on property in a subdivision. These restrictions appear in the deed records. Deed restrictions are private agreements or contracts and are binding on every property owner in a subdivision. All subsequent owners become a party to those agreements when they purchase property in a deed-restricted subdivision.

Usually, deed restrictions are imposed upon lots in a subdivision by the real estate developer. The document is filed with the County Deed Records prior to the time that the developer sells any lots in the subdivision. The primary purpose of most deed restrictions is to preserve the residential character of a subdivision. Without deed restrictions a property owner is free engage in actions which may decrease the value of surrounding homes such as to operate a business on his/her property. A deed restriction on commercial and industrial land uses prevents this from occurring in the neighborhood.

Most subdivisions developed for residential use have deed restrictions, however, there is no legal requirement for a developer to establish deed restrictions in a subdivision. Numerous older subdivisions have restrictions that have not been renewed and thus have lost the legal sanction that prohibits commercial or industrial use in the community. Many of these neighborhoods however remain residential in character. To establish the status of or obtain a copy of deed restrictions contact the County Clerk who is located in the County Clerk’s Office, fourth floor of the County Administration Building at 1001 Preston.

The length of time that deed restrictions remain effective is determined by two factors: (1) the specific language of the document and (2) whether the property owners have enforced and maintained the restrictions against violations. The terms of deed restrictions vary greatly, although most deed restrictions have an average life span of 25-30 years. Some are drafted to be in effect “in perpetuity”.

Many deed restrictions contain an automatic renewal provision after 25 years of existence. In this case no action is required for the original deed restrictions to remain in effect after the initial period. In other cases action may be necessary within a time period specified in your deed restrictions. In these cases renewal requires the approval of a specified percentage of homeowners, usually the majority. If the property owners desire restrictions to continue in effect, notarized signatures and recording the document in the Deed Records of the County Clerk’s Office is required. Whether the deed restrictions have lapsed due to non-enforcement is a matter for judicial determination.
Deed restrictions can be amended. The ease of this action depends on the specific language in the document. Property owners must first determine if the restrictions allow for amendment. If so, some restrictions may require a majority of landowners to amend the document. In others, approval of 100% of the landowners may be necessary. Action to amend the restrictions requires the preparation of a formal legal document. Each property owner’s signature must be notarized. Then the document must be filed with the County Clerk’s Office. If there is no provision for amendment in the document, State Law does provide a mechanism for renewal or reinstatement of deed restrictions. It may be advisable to consult an attorney in this matter.

The State of Texas has established procedures for legally extending, as well as adding to and changing restrictions. The procedure requires homeowners to form a petition committee and to file a petition with the County Clerk. The procedure is outlined in the Texas Property Code. A copy is available at the Harris County Law Library, or the Texas Room of the Central Library. It should be noted that if a subdivision’s deed restrictions are more restrictive than its zoning designation then the deed restrictions would prevail. Rules established by deed restrictions can not be overturned or canceled by zoning. However property owners must actively work to keep deed restrictions in force.
7.6 **COMMUNITY MEETING RESPONSE AND SURVEYS**

**Community Meetings Responses**

**Making Places**

**Issues/Concerns**

**Responses**

1. Need Streetlights in neighborhoods  
2. Community Center for Youth Activities, and community activities  
3. More Pocket Parks  
4. Demolish Vacant Buildings and Houses  
5. Sidewalks in neighborhoods  
6. Provide Infill housing on vacant lots  
7. Entrances (gateways and marquees) into Neighborhoods  
8. Maintain vacant and weeded Lots  
9. Better Landscaping, Beautification of neighborhoods  
10. No Project Based HUD Housing  
11. Rehabilitation/ Homeownership Program  
12. Graffiti Abatement- consistency and maintenance  
13. More Apartments  
14. Bring More Single Family Housing- Affordable  
15. YMCA in Community / Boys and Girls Club  
16. Swimming Pool in neighborhood  
17. More frequently Heavy Trash Pickup - not just once a year  
18. Civic Club Coalition  
19. Turn Keith Weiss Park over to the County  
20. Beautification of JFK & Lauder Rd.  
21. Deed Restrictions Enforced  
22. Big Park- Tennis Courts, Soccer Fields, Walking Trails  
23. Housing Rehabilitation for elderly  
24. Hwy 59 @ Merrimac & Hartwick- Abandoned and Vandalized Buildings  
25. Lack of Community Spirit  
26. Build Less Apartments  
27. Absentee Landlords Not Maintaining Properties

**Creating Work**

**Issues/concerns**

**Responses**

1. Attract New Businesses, Industries & Corporations to Create Jobs  
2. Inadequate Public Transportation to jobs  
3. Facility Offering Job Counseling/Training for the Youth
4. School to Work Programs 16
5. Incentives for Business Shopping Centers 12
6. Provide More Grocery Stores 11
7. Inadequate Commercial Water and Sewer System for new business development 10
8. Provide a List of Employable Students 8
9. Second Chance Program (Lead to Employment) 8
10. More Interaction Between Schools and “One Stop Shops” 8
11. Provide more Restaurants, Strip Centers, Movies, Office Buildings/Space, for Large Chain Stores 7
12. Route Aldine Bender Metro Transportation and Extend services 7
13. Sources of Neighborhood Employment (youth) 6
14. On the Job Training 5
15. Workforce Development and Career Satellite Center 5
16. Offer Tax Incentives/Breaks to attract business 4
17. Youth Entrepreneurship Programs 4
18. Jobs that provide benefits 4
19. Mentoring Program 3
20. Tapping Into Neighborhood Resources 2
21. Civic Clubs Interacting with Businesses 2
22. Improve Area’s Physical Appearance to Attract Businesses 1

Building A Strong Foundation
Issues/Concerns
Responses

1. Sidewalks throughout neighborhood (Aldine Mail Rt./Aldine Westfield, 59 to Otterbury) 93
2. Streetlights throughout community (Aldine Westfield & Aldine Bender, Matilda & Aldine Westfield, Buschong & McMillan, Hopper & McMillan) 81
3. Sewer and drainage Improvements 78
4. Street widening, repairs, and maintenance 28
5. Maintenance of ditches and culverts (cleaning and trimming) 22
6. Flooding in neighborhoods 16
7. Sidewalks Surrounding all Schools 15
8. Improved Water and Sewer Services (Health Problems) 12
9. Hardy Toll Rd. Improvement- Bridge at Aldine Mail Rt.- heavy traffic 9
10. Provide Walk and Bike Trails throughout community 8
11. Lighted Trails 7
12. Speed bumps/humps 6
13. Improved Sunbelt MUD services 6
14. Peoples’ Utilities 6
15. Lack of Adequate Commercial Water/ Sewer Systems 5
16. Traffic/ Caution Lights around Schools 4
17. Drainage Ditch on Plum Meadow St., NE of Keith Weiss Park is corroded and caving in) 3

Aldine Community Plan 93
19. Crosswalks on Aldine Mail Rt. 3
20. Covered bus stop for Kids 3
21. Sewer Back (High Meadows South) 2

**Accessing Services**

**Issues/Concerns**

**Responses**

1. Better Public Transportation (lack of bus service – does not go to Bush Airport, Community College, or jobs) 31
2. Mosquito Control 21
3. Not enough traffic signals and stop signs 21
4. Not Enough Police Officers Patrolling Area (parks) 20
5. After School Programs 17
6. Need Fire Station and EMS closer (response time too great due to distance) and More Fire Hydrants 12
7. Need a process to Dispense Community Resource Information (Community Billboard, newsletter) 12
8. School Zones/Speed Limits- Larger Zones/ Flashing Lights 12
9. More Street Lights throughout community 10
10. Boys and Girls Club for Youth 10
11. Provide more funding, expansion and support for Aldine Youth Community Facility 13
12. Homeless shelter or programs for homeless 10
13. Programs to Teach Kids Not to Walk In Streets 10
14. Animal Control 9
15. Juvenile Crime 9
16. Curfew for Kids (Enforced) 9
17. Expanded Library Services and Resources 8
18. Activities for Seniors and Youth 7
19. Aldine Health Clinic- better services, access, poor customer service, free vaccinations 5
20. Gerber Park Needs Improvements (needs Building/ Senior Center) 4
21. Community Sponsored Little League Association – Year Round Facility 4
22. Crossover, “Catwalk” for school crossing at Hambrick, Groger, and MacArthur 4
23. Morning Tutoring 4
24. Need a Hospital in target area 3
25. Extend Aldine Store Front Hours-Evening 3
26. Water Purity- too many houses on wells/ septic too close (50 X 100), need at least 60 ft to purify water – creates health hazards 3
27. Neighborhood lunch program 2
28. More Teachers 2
29. Areas not serviced by Sunbelt MUD still have well water, (Sunbelt expand its boundaries) 2
30. Trash Services 1
31. Services for Seniors (transportation to doctor, meals, pharmacy) 1
32. Interfaith Hospitality Shelter 1
33. Crisis Intervention Center 1
ANALYSIS OF COMMUNITY MEETING SURVEYS

Aldine Community Plan Survey Results

1. What are the positive aspects of your community?

1. Proximity and quality of schools
2. Rural Feel/Not Overcrowded/ Quiet
3. Proximity to Work/Downtown/Airport
4. Nearby County Library, Parks and Churches
5. Homeownership
6. Civic Clubs established and active
7. Vacant land for Businesses Opportunities
8. Outstanding Police Response
9. Decent Drainage
10. Friends and Family Live Nearby
11. Caring/Involved/Supportive Residents
12. Good Stores/Gas Stations
13. Fire Station in Community
14. Many Kids
15. (Deed) Restrictions Not Critical
16. Decent Streets
17. Is a Neighborhood, Not just A Subdivision
18. Improved Streets
19. Lighting Improved in Community
20. Speed Bumps on Some Streets
21. Racial Diversity
22. Improvements to US 59
23. Community Showing Improvement

2. What are the negative aspects of the community?

1. Sewage/Drainage/Water/Flood Control Problems
2. Gang Activity/Increasing Youth Crime/Drugs
3. Need more Street Lighting & Sidewalks
4. Cut Through Traffic/Speed Control/Traffic
5. Cleanliness of Homes/Yards/Neighborhoods
6. Ditches & Road Side Shoulders need to be cleaned and maintained
7. Abandoned Lots/Houses (Health hazard)
8. Better Public Transportation (Metro) 8
10. Increased Police Patrol 7
11. Road/ Shoulder Improvement 6
12. Lack of Deed Restriction Enforcement 5
13. Lack of Community Spirit & Involvement 5
14. Stray Dogs 4
15. Need Senior/ Youth Activities 4
16. Parking on Street 4
17. Too Many Apartments 3
18. Released Sex Offenders (Not Enough Information About 2
19. Need More Speed Bumps and School Zone Signs 2
20. Not Enough Residential Involvement and Parental 2
Participation
21. Need OJT/ Vocational Training/ GED Classes 2
22. Not Enough Convenient Stores 2
23. Aging Population 1
24. Need Better Infrastructure 1
25. Need Frequent Trash Pick-up 1
26. Need Emergency Care Center in Area 1
27. Trash on Streets 1
28. Abandoned Houses/ Businesses 1
29. Additional Fire Departments 1

3 What Do You Think the Community Needs More?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Single Family Housing</th>
<th>Apartments</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
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4 Please Rate the Following Local Community Facilities and Services

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<th>Above Average</th>
<th>Fair</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>28</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Medical</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Services</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>My Community</td>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Service</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sewer Service</td>
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<td>Streets</td>
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<td>Storm Drainage</td>
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<td>Community Centers</td>
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**Where Do You Do Most of Your Shopping, Banking, etc.?**

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<td>Banking</td>
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<td>Groceries</td>
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<td>Clothing</td>
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<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dining Out</td>
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<td>Gasoline</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor/Dentist</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment</td>
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<td>26</td>
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**Please Fill Out the Following Demographic Information**

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<td>6 Or More</td>
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<td>Rent or Lease</td>
<td>Lease to Purchase</td>
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<td>Divorce</td>
<td>Widowed</td>
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<td>---------</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>46</td>
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Please rate the effectiveness of the Aldine Community Meeting

Satisfied

😊 Excellent Participation
😊 Begun first phase of getting community involved.
😊 Good
😊 The meeting really brought our neighborhood together. We hope that we can benefit and come together to get the things we need, and have needed for years.
😊 If our meetings will accomplish improvements in our neighborhoods, we will be very satisfied. For now everything can be improved.
😊 The revitalization program is a productive idea.
😊 Very effective, additional participation from the community is vital.
😊 Great Meeting
😊 Very good. First Class. Thank You.
😊 Excellent
😊 First steps to improving our community.
😊 Very important. Very Good.
😊 It’s a good idea.
😊 Fair
😊 Good
😊 I will be attending more meetings in the near future.
😊 Excellent if you go through with it.
😊 I hope that we will get a lot done. I will do my best to help with this process.
😊 Very good. I truthfully feel that it will resolve our problems.
😊 It will be good because it will be an great opportunity to improve the neighborhood where we live.
😊 Excellent
😊 This is a start and the meeting was great. There would have been more people except for the rain made it unsafe for them to come out. People running the meeting were very friendly and answered all questions we had. They were very interested in our community.
😊 Was very good.
😊 No Comments-Attending this meeting for first time.
😊 I feel that the meeting was very well planned. The Weather probably kept many people from attending.
😊 I believe the meetings are of value and want to see the recommendations implemented.
😊 I believe that they talked about all the things that are important for the
neighborhood. They gave us great ideas in how to improve our neighborhood. I appreciate that they came to help us.

😊 It is a great idea, but the proof is in the pudding

😊 Very encouraging

😊 This is the first time we have had a meeting like this and it went great.

😊 Very Good

😊 I believe this was a great meeting. It would have been even better if we had more people in the community attend.

😊 We discussed things that are important to our community.

 Unsatisfied

😊 I don’t think that the meetings are enough to get a good % of neighborhood input, because of the lack of advertising. The Chronicle was the main venue used, which was OK- but not sufficient. Would have liked to see door to door notices, with the grocery ads and coupons.

😊 It’s my first one, I’ll have to wait and see.

😊 I wish there were more Hispanic participation.

😊 I wish more people had shown up.
7.7 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Aldine Target Area
Located in the north central portion of Harris County. The northern boundary of the area consists of Aldine Bender Road - Highway 525 and to the east is Eastex Freeway 59. The western boundary is the Hardy Toll Road. To the south, Aldine borders the Houston city limits and Little York Road, a major surface link in Harris County.

Associations (Civic and Homeowners)
Community based organization involved in the physical, social, or economic welfare of the community.

CDBG Program
Community Development Block Grant. Program which provides federal aid to promote sound community development. All CDBG activities must benefit low- and moderate-income persons; aid in the prevention or elimination of slums and blight; or address other community development needs that present a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community.

Census Data, (Bureau of the Census)
A general purpose statistical agency that collects, tabulates, and publishes a wide variety of data about the people and the economy of the nation. Congress, the Executive Branch, and the public in the development and evaluation of programs generally use this information. Census is performed every 10 years.

Community Development Plan
Identifies community development and housing needs and specifies both short-term and long-term community development objectives that have been developed in accordance with the primary objective of the statute authorizing the CDBG program.

Comprehensive Grant Program
Compilation of federal grant programs that includes the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA).

Comprehensive Plans
The primary purpose is to solve problems of community interest with a systematic formula. As such, this comprehensive plan should be used as: (1) A means by which public and private community decision can be evaluated; (2) A basis for budget and capital improvement planning; (3) A means of establishing funding priorities; (4) A
guide to the general public regarding community needs; and (5) A basis for balancing strategies for economic development and enhanced quality of life.

Economic Development
Process of revitalizing the economy through various tools, techniques, and development of programs.

The Harris County Community Development Department [HCCDD]
Harris County Commissioners Court in 1974 established HCHCDA as the Harris County Community Development Department to administer the Community Development Block Grant funds for Harris County. The program was authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to improve the quality of living conditions of low and moderate income residents by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities.

Harris County Commissioners Court
Administrative body of county government and advisory body to Harris County Community Development Department.

HUD
The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Incorporated Area
Combined into one body or unit; usually considered a municipality or city. (see also unincorporated area)

Infrastructure
The basic foundation of facilities and equipment (e.g. water, sewerage, power, roads, etc.) which are necessary for the functioning.

Planning
An organized, calculated approach to structuring a residential or business region to realize the common values that are vital to both the individual and collective well-being. It attempts to provide maximum opportunity for individual choice while simultaneously protecting the individual from the adverse affects of others’ actions.

Proposal Review Team (PRT)
Harris County Community Development Department’s professional staff who reviews and evaluates applicant proposals for possible funding.

Proposal
A written application, accompanied by supporting documents, is submitted to request grant funding.
Public Hearings
Meetings designed to obtain citizens' views and to respond to proposals and questions in all stages of the community development program, including at least the determination of needs, the review of proposed activities and review of program performance, which hearings shall be held after adequate notice at times and locations convenient to potential or actual beneficiaries and with accommodations for the handicapped.

PY Program Year
HCCDD uses program year rather than fiscal year.

Seed Money
A grant or contribution used to start a new project or organization. Seed grants may cover salaries and other operating expenses of a new project.

Service Area
The HCCDD service area is comprised of the unincorporated area of Harris County and incorporated areas that choose to sign cooperative agreements with the county. In 1995, the service area included 15 incorporated communities. Baytown, Houston and Pasadena, as entitlement communities, and are not included in the HCCDD service area.

Unincorporated Area
Areas of a county that are not within the corporate limits of cities, towns, villages or other form of incorporated area. For the purposes of this report unincorporated areas refers only to those areas within Harris County.

Urban Blight
The name given to the urban phenomena that occurs when the affluent economic class of a city take flight to newer, more modern community and business developments outside of the city’s epicenter, and take with them the economic support and community base that allowed the previous section to prosper. With it removed, the former affluent area degenerates into a median lower-income area, and sometimes as a result the physical appearance will also degrade, with low-occupancy or abandoned business, food and retail centers, less well-card-for neighborhoods, higher crime rates, and less economic opportunities for the residents.

Urban County
Any county within a metropolitan area which (1) is authorized under state law to undertake essential community development and housing assistance activities in its unincorporated areas, (2) has a population of 200,000 or more (excluding the population of the metropolitan area).
7.8 Sources Cited


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