

**Report to Mayor
Fifth and Broadway Task Force
December 12, 2006**

The Fifth and Broadway Task Force is a diverse group of neighborhood representatives and residents, business owners, community stakeholders, and government officials. Mayor Haslam appointed the task force in June 2006, to deal with issues in the community that emerged surrounding the future of the Fifth Avenue Motel. The Task Force met ten times in open session. Many council members and other interested citizens have attended many of the sessions. The Task Force is co-facilitated by Councilman Chris Woodhull and Sr. Director of Policy Development William Lyons.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Fifth and Broadway Initiative is to create, with the City of Knoxville and Knox County, a livable, enjoyable and sustainable environment that includes homeless care and business and neighborhood growth. The plan will stretch to encompass the logical reaches of the Fifth and Broadway intersection.

This initiative will be presented to the Mayor in the form of a written plan rooted in shared interest and common sense. The success of this initiative depends upon all parties operating in good faith ways that honor the shared challenges of the entire community. Following presentation of the plan the task force will continue to meet on a regular basis to assess progress and to provide further input to city government.

In order to build on the shared interest vision developed through this process the Fifth and Broadway Task Force requests that the City of Knoxville:

Short Term

Pass and implement a panhandling ordinance and create parallel education programs to avoid enabling the homeless population.

Work with churches and other benevolent organizations that serve the homeless to be more focused on “effective giving” in an effort to avoid enabling the homeless and increasing its population.

Explore alternative sentencing approaches to deal with habitual offenders responsible for order crimes

Work with TDOT to focus on safe passageways beneath the interstate overpasses through lighting improvements and actively pursue optimal redesign of area under bridges.

Work with St. John’s Lutheran Church and other establishments to improve the aesthetics of Broadway.

Expand the reaches of the city supported façade program to include Broadway extended throughout the North Knoxville redevelopment area

Place the Knoxville Arts and Fine Crafts Center in the North Knoxville redevelopment area.

Work to avoid any further concentration of homeless services in the Broadway-Fifth area.

Try to find a suitable, non-homeless service provider oriented, use for Midway building and other vacant buildings in the general area.

Clean up homeless camps in CBID and adjacent intercity neighborhoods, including those camping in cars and vacant houses and other buildings, and channel occupants to the services provided by VMC, KARM and the Salvation Army.

Work to find effective ways to deal with the theft of copper from homes and construction sites.

Work with rail lines to find effective ways to deal with camps on railroad property.

Work effectively with the neighborhoods and area stakeholders in the enforcement of codes and the allocation of police resources to the Fifth and Broadway area

Develop a strategy to eliminate illegal truck and vehicle unloading from the street and sidewalks along Broadway.

Long Term

Commit city resources to the Fifth and Broadway area to support infrastructure, including sidewalks, lighting, and street improvements

Strongly support the implementation of the City of Knoxville's Ten Year Plan to end homelessness. Encourage all city neighborhoods to effectively support the plan by encouraging broad community involvement throughout the entire city.

Support implementation of the North Knoxville redevelopment area proposed to council.

Actively promote the Small Area Plan for the North Knoxville area through MPC (see attached)

Continue to work strengthen the role of neighborhoods in the policy process as reflected in the work of the Strong Neighborhoods Task Force