

## **Long Wharf Community Meeting**

**Wed 2/8/23, 6pm**

### **Parish House, Betsy Ross School**

Meeting attended by approximately 60: 4 alders (President Tyisha Walker-Myers, Alder Carmen Rodriguez, Alder Evelyn Rodriguez and Alder Ron Hurt), Mayor Elicker, residents, businesses, and city staff.

City staff presented briefly on the proposed plans for the Long Wharf gateway redevelopment. The remainder of the meeting was an open forum for questions and comments.

Questions were raised regarding: building demolition; security in the district; trash pickup and location of trash & recycling cans/types of cans; closing streets & pedestrian and car access during construction; access of residents and general safety; educational uses at redeveloped Gateway CC site; traffic studies whether the pier is intended for fishing and will have receptacles, etc to support responsible fishing. Finally, questions were raised re: costs and timeframes for the project. All questions were fielded by the mayor and city staff.

A concern about drag racing was expressed.

Several neighbors pointed out that they like the following components of the plan: the separation of bikes and cars, the addition of public bathrooms and one said, "I think parking is well thought out".

Throughout the conversation, several requests were made including:

- workforce development use and potential for American Job Center as part of Gateway CC
- Food desert/request for a right-size grocery (x2)
- a police substation
- adequate staffing to clean, maintain district
- re-location of pier (from conceptual renderings) to be closer to parking and to avoid blocking highway entrance
- reverse angled parking

One local business requested that the development team share development opportunities and partnerships with local businesses.

A conversation about APT brought up various questions, concerns and suggestions. One noted a concern re: children and their potential exposure to APT clients. The current management team of APT New Haven was present and spoke about the future likelihood of mobile treatment options. She mentioned that they have purchased a van to outfit as a mobile treatment vehicle once the CT legislature approves that method of service delivery. One resident shared a "negative view of APT" as she was unable to identify any community benefit to their presence. Others mentioned loitering and ensuring that the area is clean and safe.

Other issues that were raised in the community conversation include the need for affordable housing, needing to think about the active marine ecosystem, soil disturbance as buildings are razed/moved/built and ADA access especially in regards to sidewalks and potholes.