Hilltop/Little Italy
Wilmington, Delaware
January 2009
Hilltop/Little Italy Blueprint Communities

Revitalization Plan

Prepared by:

Hilltop/Little Italy Blueprint Communities Team

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1. INTRODUCTION

**Hilltop/Little Italy Blueprint Communities**

Blueprint Communities is a volunteer-driven initiative to develop a community plan. Blueprint Communities training has been facilitated by the University of Delaware Center for Community Research and Service. The plan will be distributed to government agencies, funding sources, foundations, developers, consultants and other planners as a “blueprint” for their future initiatives and projects. Being a Blueprint Community will allow this Community additional access to resources and funding.

**Vision**

To aid in the redevelopment and assist in the transforming of the area into a vibrant healthy community through the development of a comprehensive community plan as a Blueprint for the future.

Critical components of the plan focus on and around the 7 corridors. They include: business enhancement and transformation; neighborhood aesthetics; housing redevelopment; and the promotion of an overall healthier environment while addressing public safety.
2. PLANNING AREA ANALYSIS

Boundaries and Map of Planning Area

The area is located in New Castle County Delaware, within the boundaries of the City of Wilmington. Bounded by Lancaster Avenue to 8th Street, Broom Street to W. Corbin Street and the business district of Lincoln-Union Streets, Lancaster Avenue, and 4th Street. It consists of parts of four neighborhoods, Little Italy, Hilltop, Woodlawn, and Southwest as indicated on the map.
History of Planning Area

- Located within the municipality of the City of Wilmington, most of this community was developed in the early 1880’s to 1930’s.

- The earliest residential development occurred on Lancaster Avenue for workers on the riverfront. The community was comprised of residential and small businesses and has seven main street corridors (Lancaster and Greenhill Avenues, 4th, 2nd, Lincoln, Broom, and Union Streets).

- The community represented a thriving residential urban area served by corner store retail in which owners frequently resided in units above their shops. A wide variety of retail was offered within the neighborhood since transportation was primarily foot traffic or trolleys along the main corridors and modern refrigeration was limited.

- Social events were primarily provided through churches, West End Neighborhood House, social clubs and service organizations. Industries included large bakeries, slaughter houses, breweries, leather tanneries and St. Francis Hospital.

- Most residents were employed as factory and construction workers. The community began to deteriorate in the 1960’s and in some sections continues in its decline.

- Several sections of the community have experienced a revitalization through initiatives led primarily by non-profits and community groups like the Little Italy Neighborhood Association, the City of Wilmington, West End Neighborhood House, Wilmington Housing Partnership and Cornerstone West.
Community Description & Census Map

- The Hilltop/Little Italy Blueprint Community is located on the Western side of the City of Wilmington. It is one of the most densely populated areas in the State of Delaware. Its residents reflect that diversity in racial, ethnic, economic, educational, and employment difference. The community is a working class community established in the late 1800’s.

- The Hilltop planning area includes portions of three census tracts. More precisely, the planning area consists of 118 block groups identified by the U.S. Census Bureau and covers an area smaller than one half square mile. The area is part of census tracts 23, 12, and 24.

- Over the past 50 years, the community has been transitioning into rental and low-income substandard housing due to the age of the community and obsolete housing stock. Recently, Hilltop has begun to embrace urban revitalization. The included neighborhoods have benefited in the last decade from community revitalization efforts, economic and housing redevelopment.
Land Use

Only a small portion of the land use is single family dwellings. There is very little parkland and open space. Land use in the community is mostly mixed urban or built-up land, and consists largely of row homes.
Demographic and Social Characteristics

- Population of 7,642 individuals living in 2,876 households.
- Females account for 53% of the population while 47% are males.
- The median age is 35.5 years.
- 41.2% of the area population reported some type of disability.
- 29.8% of residents age 25 and older in the planning area have achieved less than a high school diploma or equivalent.

### Population and Demographics, Hilltop Community Sub areas, 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subarea</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Total Households</th>
<th>% African-American</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hilltop</td>
<td>2138</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Italy</td>
<td>2067</td>
<td>756</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodlawn</td>
<td>1664</td>
<td>728</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>1772</td>
<td>756</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Age Distribution of Hilltop and Larger Community, 2000

- 27% of the population is under the age of 18, 10% are between 18-24 years old, 32% between 25-44, 18% between 45-64 and 13% senior citizens over age 65.
• The area is more racially mixed than both the City and State. Racial Diversity is 44% Caucasian, 43% Black, 1% Asian, and 12% other.

• In 2000, the planning area was home to 1,699 persons of Hispanic origin or 24.3% versus Wilmington’s Hispanic population of 9.8% and Delaware at 6.3%.

• 27% of the population is under the age of 18, 10% is between 18-24 years old, 32% is between 25-44 years old, 18% is between 45-64 years old, and 13% is senior citizens over 65 years old

Examining block group level data from the 2000 Census, it appears that the median household income for the area slightly larger than the Hilltop planning area is $29,352. This figure is significantly lower than both the City of Wilmington ($35,116) and the State of Delaware ($47,381).

The per capita personal income (PCPI) for the Hilltop area is $18,147. Again, this is lower than Wilmington ($20,236) and Delaware ($23,305).
Business Characteristics

The entire 19805 zip code has a total of 776 businesses employing 12,491 individuals. The most visible type of businesses in the Blueprint Community area is restaurants, payday loans, cell phones stores, and bakeries. The majority of the businesses are small businesses, employing less than 50 people. Many of the businesses are operated out of converted residential buildings. The largest employers are St. Francis Hospital and Union Park Auto Group. Businesses are primarily located along the corridors. There are also small commercial shopping centers on the corridors. One of the problems that many of the businesses face is lack of adequate off-street parking.
Housing History
1880-1963

High density housing was developed for immigrants and unskilled laborers. Construction was primarily two story row homes 10 to 14 feet wide. These homes were marginally constructed with 900–1,200 square feet of living space. Many of these homes were built with stone foundations and dirt floors. The single bathrooms were frequently located on the first floor with 2-4 bedrooms on the second floor. The homes were heated by coal and later converted to gas or oil heating and had little or no insulation. In addition, a majority of the homes had no front yards and small rear yards (10 x 20 square feet). The homes had few modern amenities such as closet space, little natural lighting, no forced air HVAC, or pitched roofs. Although these homes were well kept, upgrades were primarily heaters and in a few instances air conditioning. The homes were mainly owner-occupied by low-to-moderate income families until the early sixties.

Current Housing Conditions
1963-Present

Over the next 45 years, homes deteriorated as families moved to more modern suburban units and older residents were unable to maintain these aging units. These units became attractive to investors during the 1960’s through the 1990’s. Investors would purchase these homes, often devoting minimal capital consisting of primarily cosmetic improvements. In addition, many single family units were allowed to be converted to multi family apartments, ranging from 2-5 units which further increased the density of the community.
As a result of the increase in density, the community experienced increasing numbers of absentee and delinquent landlords; flat or decreasing property values; and increased public safety issues. There was also an increase in blighted and vacant units. Investors and residents were unwilling or unable to make the repairs and upgrades required to revitalize these 100-year-old units making many homes in the area obsolete compared to current building practices. Scores of the vacant units accelerated in deterioration as failed roofing and exposure to the elements contributed to their collapse.

Current Housing Density

The Hilltop/Little Italy planning area is the most densely populated area in the State of Delaware. This density is due to past zoning practices, the conversions of single family homes to multi-family apartments, and economic incentives that result from increased density during development. To put things into perspective, our community has a density that is 2 times greater than the City of Wilmington, 35 times greater than the State, and 193 times greater than the Nation per square mile.

Density Comparison:
2 Times Greater than the City of Wilmington
35 Times Greater than the State
193 Times Greater than the Nation
The 7 Corridors

The Hilltop/Little Italy Community includes seven (7) major corridors of both pedestrian and automotive traffic in and out of the community. These corridors are a major focus of the Blueprint Community revitalization plan.

The Corridors include:

• Lancaster Avenue and 2nd Street which run parallel to one another and in opposite directions (west and east).

• Lincoln and Union Streets which also run parallel to one another and in opposite directions (north and south).

• 4th Street, a two-way, four-lane artery running east and west.

• Broom Street, which varies from a one-way to a two-way road as it travels in both northerly and southerly directions.

• Greenhill Avenue which is a two way avenue running east and west.

The corridors are highlighted in black and have arrows indicating traffic flow
The Lancaster Avenue Corridor acts as an entryway bringing traffic into downtown. It also serves as a public transportation hub connecting to the Wilmington Train Station and the Greyhound bus terminal. The street has dense row homes with narrow sidewalks. There is a mix of storefront and light-commercial businesses, dense residential row homes, and multi-family apartments. It is a high drug and crime area.

The 2nd Street Corridor is a corridor leading traffic away from the City. The corridor is a narrow roadway with a mix of small business, dense residential row homes and multi-family apartments. Parking is limited to one side of the street. It is a high drug and crime area.

The Union Street Corridor is a business corridor bringing traffic away from the city and connecting Pennsylvania Avenue to Kirkwood Highway. It is made up of a mix of storefront and light-commercial businesses, restaurants, dense residential row homes and multi-family apartments. Union Street has become a destination point for restaurants and automobile shopping.
Lincoln Street Corridor

The Lincoln Street Corridor is a business corridor bringing traffic towards the city and connecting Kirkwood Highway to Pennsylvania Avenue. It is made up of a mix of restaurants, storefronts, light commercial, dense residential and multi-family units. The Lincoln Street Corridor has the most defined and noticeable entryway with a large rought-iron over-head, street-spanning banner announcing “Welcome to Little Italy.” Lincoln Street has become a destination for restaurants, seafood, and meats.

4th Street Corridor

The 4th Street corridor is a link to downtown Wilmington and many municipal buildings. There is a mix of storefront and light-commercial businesses, dense residential row homes, and multi-family apartments. It is a high drug and crime area.

Broom Street Corridor

The Broom Street Corridor is a corridor that connects Pennsylvania Avenue to Lancaster Avenue. It is predominately a residential street. The homes along Broom Street are very large and have many unique architectural features. In the 1960s and beyond, many of the large homes were divided into multi-family homes, thus creating greater density in the area. Over time, many of the homes have been under-maintained and show signs of aging. It is a high drug and crime area.
The Greenhill Avenue is a corridor that connects Pennsylvania Avenue and Lancaster Avenue. It consists of light commercial, multi-family complexes, single family residential, and shopping centers.

**Importance of The Corridors**

Corridors physically and aesthetically define the community. The architectural firm of Chan, Kreiger and Seiniewicz describe the corridors by saying that city streets are once again being thought of as multipurpose components of an overall civic realm, worthy of design thinking that befits their broader role. Equally important to travelers on foot, bicycle, car or using public transit, street characteristics contribute directly to the economies, aesthetic character, open space systems, and safety within our cities. Urban corridors are powerful components of infrastructure. Beyond contributing to overall mobility, their impact on immediate contexts can be either beneficial or damaging, depending on whether they serve to connect or divide, enliven or weaken.

These corridors have high visibility and possess the greatest potential to express the revitalization in our community. Acting as gateways for thousands of commuters into and out of downtown Wilmington, these avenues portray an immediate image of our neighborhood. City planners throughout America have been recognizing the importance of developing sustainable corridors connecting communities and destination points.

**Corridor Challenges**

Aesthetically, they currently project an undesirable image and offer little amenities for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. While they encompass the hub of the business community as well. They lack adequate parking, commercial anchors, and continuity.

Community Members noted the following weaknesses:

- Lack of consistent streetscape
- Inadequate signage
- Shortage of off street parking
- Unattractive storefronts
- High rates of Litter
- Open drug trade
- Loitering
The riverfront project has brought the Shoeslip corridor back to life in Richmond, Virginia, with trendy loft apartments, restaurants, shops and hotels in old tobacco warehouses along the Canal Walk. Canal boat cruises and walking tours add entertainment to this revitalized area.

Corridor Branding

Cities throughout our country are implementing community revitalization through corridor branding. Corridor branding is the creating of, or changing of a corridor’s identity. It is done through murals, signage, streetscaping, and façade themes. Corridor branding can positively influence people’s perception of a community.

East Carson Street, Pittsburgh

East Carson Street, Pittsburgh was named a “Great American Main Street” in 1996. Today, it is home to a mix of creative businesses, cafes, restaurants, and retail shops. These shops reflect a less than 10% vacancy rate, down from 40% in 1982.

Shoeslip Richmond Va.

The riverfront project has brought the Shoeslip corridor back to life in Richmond, Virginia, with trendy loft apartments, restaurants, shops and hotels in old tobacco warehouses along the Canal Walk. Canal boat cruises and walking tours add entertainment to this revitalized area.

Lincoln and Union Street Revitalization

In the spirit of the importance of corridors, The Little Italy Neighborhood Association recognized the need to revitalize the Lincoln and Union Street corridors to make them viable connectors that were not only walkable, but attractive, and most importantly defined the neighborhood. The Little Italy banner was installed at the entry way to the Union Street corridor. The installation of this banner served to brand the corridors and to act as welcome invitation to motorists into the community.

The revitalization was largely initiated and implemented by the Little Italy Neighborhood Association, residents and business owners.
Social Capital

The success of the Lincoln and Union Street Revitalization, though small in scale, indicate that revitalizing the corridors is achievable and beneficial to the community. This revitalization was possible because of the social capital of the community.

The community has strong social capital. It includes:

• Engaged business owners who are interested in the surrounding community
• Active residents who patronize the local businesses
• Informal socializing networks of neighbors
• An influx of new renters and new homebuyers that have moved to the area
• The large number of active civic groups, religious institutions, and organizations in the area
• Public Parks

Community Assets

There are a number of community assets that add to the social capital as well. They include: grocery stores, childcare centers, hospitals, community centers, schools, banks, and restaurants.

Along with community assets, there are annual community events that contribute social capital. They include the Little Italy Farmers Market, the Taste of Little Italy, the Italian Festival, Santa’s Workshop and Thanksgiving Basket donations at West End Neighborhood House.

Listed below is a snapshot of the active civic groups, religious institutions, and organizations:

**Active Civic Groups**

• Little Italy Neighborhood Association
• West Hill Civic Association
• 5Th District Neighborhood Planning Council
• 7th District Neighborhood Planning Council
• Westside Crime Group
• Hilltop Working Group
• Southwest Civic Association

Woodlawn Public Library.
Additional Community Organizations:

Organizations
• Catholic Charities
• Crossroads
• Ministry of Caring
• Lorelton Senior Housing
• St Francis Hospital
• U.S. Postal Service
• Wilmington Head Start
• Westside Health Center
• West End Neighborhood House
• Woodlawn Trustees
• Woodlawn Library

Religious Organizations
• St. Thomas Catholic Church
• Grace Haven Church
• New Life Christian Center
• Be Ready Jesus is Coming Church
• Zion Lutheran Church
• Praise Center Church
• Church of Deliverance Apostil
• House of Prayer Church of Deliverance
• Maranatha World Revival Church
• Community Bible Delivera
• Church of God Peregrino
• New Life Christian Center
• Oasis of Refreshing Ministry
• Greater Deliverance Temple

Community Strengths and Challenges

After numerous Blueprint Community meetings, meetings with business owners, and various civic association meetings, residents and business owners have identified what they believe are the strengths and challenges of the community.

Community Identified Strengths:

• Large number of active organizations and civic groups
• A number of diverse anchor institutions and businesses are already committed to the neighborhood’s revitalization.
• The residents and business owners are actively participating in meetings and groups.
• The community is adjacent to stronger more stable communities.
• There is an already established restaurant community and small retail community in certain parts that are recognized as destination locations.
• Private and public capital have been invested in the community over the past 10 years in both housing, façade, and streetscaping improvements
• There have been a number of prior successful revitalization efforts completed in the planning area
• Certain parts of the planning area have seen an increase homeownership
Community Identified Challenges:

- Weak corridors in and out of the community
- Public safety concerns including high rates of violent crime, drug dealing, and theft
- Extremely high population density
- Vacant and blighted housing
- Lack of cohesive business planning
- Deficiency of coordinated and focused business association/merchants group;
- Limited planning involvement by the City planning department
- A shortage of parking for residents and businesses

Current Community Challenges.
3. TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY

Critical Components

The transformation strategy will focus on and around the 7 main corridors. The transformation strategy will help attract new businesses, retain and enhance current businesses, fill vacant store fronts, increase the variety of businesses in the community, upgrade the merchandise and retail offered by the businesses, improve the marketability and perception of the businesses and communities, attract new patrons and residents, increase public safety, help reduce density and increase the positive visual effect the corridors. This will also improve the marketability and perception of the businesses and communities on the corridors. Critical components of the strategy for the corridors include: business enhancement and transformation; neighborhood aesthetics; housing redevelopment; and the promotion of an overall healthier environment while addressing public safety.

Goal: Strengthen the quality and quantity of businesses on and around the corridors

Long Term Strategies:

- Work with City Council to recognize and designate some or all of the corridors as a Business District
- Collaborate with current business owners, neighborhood groups, and interested residents to create a Business Owners Association to coordinate business activities and events
- Work with banks, government, the Delaware Small Business Association, First State Community Loan Fund, and the Wilmington Economic Development Corporation to create grants and low interest loans for business owners and residents that want to upgrade their facilities or exterior facades
- Develop a committee of residents, neighborhood groups, and business owners to enhance the walk-ability of the corridors
- Conduct workshops with the Wilmington Economic Development Corporation office to attract upgraded merchandise and retail to the corridors
- Create new programs and events that will attract pedestrians and shoppers to the area that would usually not come to the area
- Establish several key businesses as destination points for the corridors
- Guide future development to upgrade the business mix and physical character of the corridors
- Indicators include number of businesses started, number of Wilmington Economic Development Corporation loans made, number of business plans developed and number of permits drawn for construction of commercial space.

Goal: Enhance Neighborhood Aesthetics on and around the corridors

Long Term Strategies:
Partner with the City, Delaware Department of Transportation (DELDOT), and neighborhood associations to physically brand and clearly identify the corridors through murals, banners, and increased signage.

• Work with DELDOT to enhance the walkability, pedestrian crossings, and bike routes along the corridors.

• Coordinate with the civic groups, planning groups, and the Delaware Center for Horticultural to include more greening of the neighborhood and enhance the streetscape through lighting and planters.

• Help administer and promote façade programs utilizing the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, and the City of Wilmington’s model.

**Goal:** Create additional parking on and around the corridors

**Long Term Strategies:**

Adequate parking has been a problem on and around the corridors. Strategies to address parking include:

• Work with the City of Wilmington to acquire and convert individual, unconnected and unattractive parking lots into functional and attractive municipally managed and built parking garages.

• Create parking for business in current vacant or underutilized lots; demolish structurally condemnable homes and turn them into parking lots.

• Manufacture visually appealing parking lots which connect the corridors.

• Increased signage to parking lots and businesses.

**Goal:** Redevelop housing on and around the corridors

**Long Term Strategies:**

• Assist Community Development Corporations in collaborative efforts using Affordable Housing Funds, Neighborhood Stabilization Funds, and HOME Funds to acquire and renovate foreclosed, vacant and blighted houses.

• Help support legislation to develop incentives for property owners to restore multi-family apartments back to single family homes.

• Request from the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) a list of all brownfields identified in our community and work with Community Development Corporations and DNREC to create strategies to redevelop these sites.

• Help administer and promote façade enhancement, energy efficiency, emergency repair programs utilizing the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh and the City of Wilmington’s model.
• Replace deteriorated sidewalks and adapt corners for handicap access

• Work with Diamond State Community Land Trust to develop a land banking program to accumulate sufficient properties in order to develop high impact projects.

• Help support legislation to develop incentives for property owners to restore multi-family apartments back to single family homes thereby reducing overall density and reduce nonconforming strain on infrastructure.

• Build or rehab forty new homeownership units by 2015.

• Create ten new special-needs housing units by 2015.

• Replace antiquated water and sewer by year end, 2015. Measure success by determining number of contracts awarded by Delmarva Power and/or the City of Wilmington.

**Goal:** Promotion an overall healthier environment while addressing public safety

**Long Term Strategies:**

• Make aesthetic improvements, which include additional and brighter lighting; construct pedestrian safety crossings (bump outs which reduce the distance that pedestrians are in the right away of traffic while crossing the intersection)

• Lobby with legislators and Delaware Health and Social Services to increase the accessibility and availability of drug rehabilitation and prevention programs

• Assist in the marketing and promotion of membership in civic associations

• Work with City Council Representatives to increase participation in neighborhood clean up programs

• Create an environment where civic and community leaders can work together to help resolve neighborhood problems

• Work with Public Works and Parks and Recreating to assess the parks for quality of facilities and lighting

• Plant additional trees and flowers to create a clean and safe perception of the community.

• Develop a committee of residents, neighborhood groups, and business owners to enhance the walk-ability of the corridors.

• Increase social, cultural and recreational activities and capital improvements to current community facilities.
The Hilltop/Little Italy Blueprint Community Planning Team acknowledges that the identified long-term strategies and goals are lofty. Accomplishment of the long-term goals will take extensive collaborations and invested partnerships over many years. The Hilltop/Little Italy Blueprint Community is currently achieving some aspects of the overall plan. In the last ten years, Cornerstone West, a non-profit housing developer, has successfully renovated or constructed 82 homes in the planning area, 100% of which have been sold to new, first-time homebuyers. This has spurred not only an influx of new and invested residents, but has encouraged private investment and increased capital in the form of home renovations.

A key strategy of Cornerstone West, and why it has been historically successful, is their acknowledgement that sweeping and effective community revitalization efforts can not be accomplished by a single entity. The strengths of Cornerstone West lay in its partnerships and collaborations and its ability to recognize the importance of long-term planning. The Hilltop/Little Italy Blueprint Community Team has adopted this understanding, and is aware that its outlined strategies will be achieved only through smaller, focused, accomplishments. As such, we have addressed not only our communities’ strengths and challenges, but the importance of the seven main corridors as ingresses and egresses of our communities. We have identified a single goal that can address the importance of corridors, is community-wide, will build social capital, serve as a neighborhood identifier, and provide an avenue for partnerships upon which future community revitalization goals can be built and accomplished.

**Goal:** To brand the Union Street corridor and enhance neighborhood aesthetics through a partnership with the Little Italy Neighborhood Association (LINA) by assisting in the organizing and the creating of a community mural on on façade of Fierro Cheese, 1025 North Union Street.

**Objectives:**
1. Assist in the recruitment of a minimum of twenty (20) volunteers by the committed start date, Spring of 2009.
Corridor branding is the creating of, or changing of a corridor's identity through murals, signage, streetscaping, and façade themes. Cities throughout our country are implementing community revitalization through corridor branding.

LINA has already initiated a partnership with the Wilmington Mural Arts Collaborative (WMAC), which is a cooperative network of local organizations formed around the common goal of promoting public art, and murals in particular, in the City of Wilmington. This project will offer individuals of all ages an opportunity to get involved. At present, the Collaborative consists of the Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts, Howard High School of Technology, and the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs.

Likewise, the creation of this mural is an opportunity to build long-term community partnerships. Murals have historically been known to bring communities together, to identify not only the history of the locale, but the future, and to serve as an artistic expression of community values. The creation of murals can span age differences, cross racial lines, and join forces of groups not usually in concert with one another. Art is a function that knows no economic levels, does not judge its creators, and inspires beauty. Creating the mural will not only generate interest in the neighborhood, but forge partnerships from which extended accomplishments can emerge.

2. Assist in the raising of needed funds for the mural completion. A minimum of $5,000 will be raised by the Hilltop/Little Italy Blueprint Community Team in partnership with LINA by August, 2009. To date, $15,000 of the required $25,000 has been raised by LINA to complete the mural.

3. Assist in the attainment of donated materials to reduce costs. Included might be: brushes, tarps, scaffolding, project-specific t-shirts as “give-aways” for volunteers, and in-kind donations, etc. by the committed start date.
Conclusion:

By completing these objectives, the Hilltop/Little Italy Planning Team will have accomplished one of many small steps necessary for sweeping community revitalization. The completion of this mural will help brand and clearly identify the gateway to Little Italy via Union Street and mirror the gateway indicator at 4th and Lincoln Streets. This offers Little Italy identifiable landmarks for its two main north and south bound corridors. The mural will be a sense of community pride and it will reflect the past heritage and future of Little Italy.

Moreover, the creation of a mural at 1025 North Union Street will serve to brand the corridor and act as neighborhood-identifier that will correspond with the wrought-iron, street spanning, overhead sign at the intersection of Lincoln and Fourth Streets which reads “Welcom To Littly Italy.” No such structure or indicator exists for southbound travelers along Union Street (which parallels Lincoln Street in the opposite direction). This is critical, as the Pennsylvania Avenue and Union Street intersection is the parallel gateway to Little Italy and needs an identifier equal to the Lincoln Street Indicator.
**Team Roster**

**Hilltop/Little Italy Blueprint Community Team**

- Monica Alvarez - Community Member
- Carrie Casey - St. Francis Foundation
- Daryl Graham - JP Morgan Chase
- Vernon Green - Woodlawn Trustees
- Izzy Izquierdo - Wilmington Police Department
- Helene Keeley - State Representative and Community Member
- John McNamara - Cornerstone West and Community Member
- Tom Necastro - Southwest Civic Association and Community Member
- Father Joe Monahan, T.O.R - St. Francis Foundation
- Paul Calistro – West End Neighborhood House
- John Liszkiewicz - Community Member
- Mary Baines – Little Italy Neighborhood Assoc. & Community Member