

Maple Avenue Revitalization Group (MARG) Neighborhood Revitalization Zone 2024 Annual Report

I. Description

The MARG NRZ's approximate boundaries are New Britain Avenue, Barnard Street, and Whitmore Street to the north, Franklin Avenue, Preston Street, Douglas Street, Dalton Street and South Street to the east, the intersection of Fairfield Avenue and Maple Avenue to the south and Fairfield Avenue to the west.

The mission of MARG is to transform our neighborhood into one that is safe, economically successful, aesthetically attractive, environmentally healthy, and culturally vibrant. MARG realizes that these revitalization effects are just one part of a much grander enterprise of re-energizing the city as a whole. Through concerted and collaborative efforts of MARG and the other neighborhood revitalization zones through the city, we believe that Hartford will become a city that is much greater than the sum of each neighborhood's initiative as well as the envy of the state and the nation.

II. Operation

MARG NRZ's structure consists of 15 voting board members, a Chair, Co-Chair, and Secretary, who must be members of MARG.

Membership

A minimum of 51% of MARG Voting Board Members will be Hartford residents, a combination of homeowners/residents, tenants, property owners, business, cultural, educational, or non-profit organizations in the Barry Square and Maple Avenue neighborhood.

The voting Board Members of this association shall reflect the composition of the neighborhood and shall include:

- (2) Tenants
- (5) Homeowners/residents
- (2) Maple Avenue merchants
- (2) At-Large Business
- (1) Community organization
- (1) Property Owner/General
- (1) religious representative appointed by St. Augustine Church/Parisher

One (1) board member will be appointed by the Mayor's Office.

MARG board members shall total a number of 15 voting members. The City Planning Dept. will appoint (1) non-voting board member to MARG Board.

Meetings:

MARG meets the second Thursday of every month (except October) from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at St. Augustine Church (basement), 10 Campfield Avenue, Hartford CT 06114.

III. Treasury Report

Revenue for 2024-2025:

City of Hartford, Community Engagement Funds	\$3,846.15
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Expenditures for 2024-2025:

NRZ Outreach Material: brochures, magnets	\$ 320.00
Community recognition awards	\$ 338.13

IV. Strategic Plans and Goals

MARG will develop a new strategic plan with the City of Hartford in 2025. The NRZ has the following projects and goals for 2025.

- Maple Avenue Streetscape Project: \$5 million was approved in December 2024. The NRZ will work with Freeman Company to complete the project.
- Revitalization of Maple Avenue from White to Broad Streets
- Beautification of Barry Square to Preston Street
- Improvement of Vacant Properties:
 - 89 Webster Street, (Webster and Benton) the property is being foreclosed on by the City; the plan is to refurbish the property.
 - 220 Newbury Street - there was a fire on this property 2-3 years ago. It has not been purchased or rebuilt.
- MARG will continue community outreach to recruit new members for the NRZ.

V. Officers and Board Members

Officers

Hyacinth Yennie	Chair	Resident
Victor Blanco	Co-Chair	Resident
Wendy Pawlick	Secretary	Resident

Board Members:

Hyacinth Yennie	Resident
Wendy Pawlick	Resident
Cindy Fenton	Resident
Anna Zibra	Resident
Victor Blanco	Resident
Edward Vargas	Resident
Beral Tomlinson	Resident
Beverly Thompson	Resident
Emely Lugo	Resident
Melinda Colón	Renter/Tenant
Jeff King	MDC and Property Owner
Ramy Tejeda	Merchant
Donavan Lewis	Merchant
Pat Knapp	Community Service
Father Walsh	Community Service
Velez Lulmary	Renter
Andrene Bent-Campbell	City of Hartford
Jim Tanner	City of Hartford (non-voting)

VI. Highlights of Activities and Accomplishments

- **Franklin and Maple Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Spring 2024:** The project, over \$2 million, include new sidewalks and curbing, center turn lanes, landscaped medians, ornamental streetlights, improved pedestrian and bike safety, and traffic signal modifications.
- **2024 National Night Out, August 5, 2024:** National Night Out draws over 900 people to the neighborhood. MARG participated with a table at Goodwin Park to support the event and distributed NRZ-branded materials to attendees.
- **May and October Clean-up in Barry Square:** Twice each year, MARG organizes a neighborhood clean-up which includes police officers, fire fighters, and neighborhood residents.
- **2024 Holiday Celebration, December 12, 2024:** This year's holiday celebration was well attended. Special guests included Mayor Arunan Arulampalam, Fire Chief Rodney Barco, Edward Vargas, and Santa Claus.
- **Improved Quality of Life:** Working with police and city officials, the NRZ successfully closed The Flaming Llama, 318-320 Franklin Avenue, the location of numerous fights, violent outbreaks, drugs and prostitution.

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