A Neighborhood Team Approach to Strengthening University-Neighborhood Relations

Tito A. Luna
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About VCU

- Premier urban, public research university
- Located in Richmond, VA
- Established in 1838
- 31,288 students
- #1 public graduate arts program in the country
- #1 hospital in Virginia
- $270 million in sponsored research
Division of Community Engagement
Downtown Richmond, VA
VCU Campuses

Monroe Park Campus

MCV Campus
Surrounding Neighborhoods

- Oregon Hill
- The Fan
- Randolph
- Newtowne West
- Carver
- Jackson Ward
- Oregon Hill
VCU Police Extended Jurisdiction
Carver-VCU Partnership

• Formed in 1996
• Structure
• Goals
  – Community development
  – Youth development
  – Health and wellness programs
Community Development

• Master Plan
• Sheep Hill Memories, Carver Dreams
• Community Programs Space
• Leadership Training (CACIL)
Youth Development

- After-school program
- VCU AmeriCorps and America Reads
- G.W. Carver Elementary School
  - Carver Promise mentoring program
  - Service learning students
  - Carver Health Project
Health & Safety

• Fitness facility access
• Annual health fairs
• Police jurisdiction expansion
Surrounding Neighborhoods

- Oregon Hill
- The Fan
- Randolph
- Newtowne West
- Carver
- Jackson Ward
- Oregon Hill
Neighborhood Outreach Director

• Primary liaison between VCU and its neighbors
• Attends neighborhood association meetings
• Leverages VCU resources
  – Work study
  – Service hours (employee and student)
  – Graduate internships
• Develops collaborative initiatives
Neighborhood Outreach Director

• Facilitates inclusion in major capital decisions
Collaborative Initiatives

• Neighborhood Liaisons
• Paint the Town Green
• Project Clean & Green Move
• Neighborhood Team
Collaborative Initiatives

• Paint the Town Green
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• Project Clean & Green Move
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- Project Clean & Green Move

**Use Our Dumpsters!**

Four dumpsters are available for residential use near VCU from April 25—May 26 and again from July 26—September 3. Click on the map for locations!

**Neighborhood Cleanups**

8 AM—12 PM on these Saturdays:
- May 31
- June 28
- August 2
- August 23

**How to help**
- Volunteer to help load trash and sort reusable items in all five neighborhoods. We also need cleanup leaders. Email: neighbors@vcu.edu.
- Separate your trash and reusable items and leave them out before 8 AM on these Saturdays.

**Donation Resources**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Clothing</th>
<th>Electricals</th>
<th>Glasses</th>
<th>Furniture</th>
<th>Books</th>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th>Nonperishable Food</th>
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<td>Goodwill, 349-0008</td>
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For large items that are not suitable for donation, call 311 and request a答案

*If moving out before these days, you can still help RIVA’s nonprofits by donating your lightly used items—and get a tax deduction!*
Collaborative Initiatives

• Project Clean & Green Move
Collaborative Initiatives

• Neighborhood Team
  – Several VCU units
  – Meet quarterly
  – Neighborhood liaisons attend once per semester
  – Discuss issues of common concern
  – Monroe Park Campus Neighborhood Forum
Collaborative Initiatives

- Neighborhood Team
  - Role of VCU Police
    - External relations officer Greg Felton
Collaborative Initiatives

• VCU Police
  – Noise suppression van
  – PrtySmrt
  – LiveSafe
Future Goals

• More faculty / staff involvement
  – Community service leave
  – G.W. Carver Elementary School

• Neighborhood leadership program

• Neighborhood assessments and planning
  – Include evaluation of VCU as a neighbor
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