



## **Jamestown Justice CoalitionJamestown City Council Recommended Priorities**

- 1) Housing: Quality, Affordability, and Accountability
  - a. The #1 area of feedback was frustration with housing. People are angry about slumlords, unsafe units, abandoned buildings, and rising rents. Homeowners believe that these conditions lower housing value. Residents are not asking for abstract reform. They are asking for visible enforcement, faster action, and consequences for repeat offenders.
  - b. Recommendations
    - i. Code Enforcement:
      1. Establish maximum response timelines for housing complaints.
        - a. Initial inspected within 10 business days
        - b. Follow-up inspection within 30 days
      2. Create a priority tier system for violations involving heat, water, mold, electrical hazards, and structural safety.
      3. Require annual safety inspections for all rental properties, not compliant based only.
    - ii. Slumlord & Property Accountability
      1. Create a Landlord Licensing Program
        - a. License required to operate rental units in the city with priority to keep landlords local.
          - i. There are multiple cities in the United States who already have these programs (i.e., Denver, CO; Boulder, CO; Aberdeen, WA).
        2. Establish a Repeat Offender Registry
          - a. Publicly accessible list of landlords with chronic violations
          - b. Escalating fines and penalties for repeat noncompliance
        3. Create a limit on the number of rental properties owned by a single entity.
      - iii. Zombie and Abandoned Properties
        1. Rehabilitate or demolish zombie properties.
        2. Publish a public inventory of vacant and abandoned properties.
        3. Expand the use of land banking to return properties to owner-occupants or mission-aligned developers.
        4. Prioritize redevelopment for affordable housing and first-time home buyers.



- 2) Knowledge, Dignity, and Respect of Residents Experiencing Homelessness
  - a. Many of our community members emphasized dignity, shelters, treatment, and support for our homeless population. We need a city government that continuously treats this as a human crisis, not a nuisance problem.
  - b. Recommendations
    - i. Shelter, Services, and Support
      1. Establish a formal city partnership framework with organizations who are doing the work including UCAN City Mission, Chautauqua Opportunities, YWCA Jamestown, St Susan's Center, Conduit Ministries, and others.
      2. Provide support for and awareness of neighborhood pantries operated by city residents.
    - ii. Stability Measures
      1. Treat city residents experiencing homelessness with dignity and respect in all aspects and in every interaction. These are our neighbors and community members.
      2. Require trauma-informed training for police, code enforcement, and city staff interacting with unhoused residents.
      3. Eliminate policies that criminalize survival behaviors (sleeping/sitting).
- 3) Government Outreach: Transparency, Communication, and Accountability
  - a. People want to know what our city government is doing, why decisions happen, and how to participate. City government should be working towards removing barriers to entry.
  - b. Recommendations
    - i. Reestablish the Strategic Planning and Partnership Commission as required by city charter which will include strategic priority setting, public input, and regular progress monitoring.
    - ii. Restore and Create Commissions
      1. Housing Advisory, youth advisory, small business advisory, human rights commission.
    - iii. Regular community outreach from council members and the mayor's office. Regularly communicate with residents in many ways as possible including regularly replying to emails, creating public council member pages on social media, door knocking in local wards, tabling at cultural summer festivals, and regular public town halls.



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