



For immediate release
Date: October 25, 2016
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Media Notice

ECHO Housing Corporation gives Jacobsville Crime Free Alliance update to community – provides early crime data results

What: ECHO Housing Corporation’s Jacobsville Join In initiative provides Jacobsville community with program update regarding the Jacobsville Crime Free Alliance at the Jacobsville Neighborhood Improvement Association’s general meeting on October 18, and the North Side Business Association meeting October 25, 2016.

The Jacobsville neighborhood is north of downtown Evansville, Indiana, and is a core urban neighborhood. The neighborhood is comprised of 336 city blocks, and the largest and most densely populated neighborhood in Evansville, with nearly 7,000 residents and an estimated 8,000 jobs. The neighborhood has a rich history, unique culture, and iconic landmarks including North Main Street business corridor, Garvin Park, Bosse Field and Willard Library. Despite these assets, Jacobsville has been plagued with:

- High crime and drug activity
- Blight and urban decay
- High poverty
- Low neighborhood bonding and residents feeling helpless

Commissioned by the City of Evansville, ECHO Housing Corporation along with community partners launched a comprehensive community development initiative in 2012, known as Jacobsville Join In, to establish a resident-led quality of life process for the Jacobsville community. The Jacobsville Crime Free Alliance was formed as a response to feedback given about neighborhood safety by residents and stakeholders during the quality of life process. **“In 2013, ECHO Housing Corporation applied for and was awarded a BYRNE Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) Enhancement Grant with the Bureau of Justice after recognizing the neighborhood’s vision to revitalize the area may not be as successful unless organized efforts were made to address crime issues in Jacobsville,”** said Jennifer Cooke, Jacobsville Join In Community Mobilizer.

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Jacobsville Join In!
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Convening Organization:
ECHO Housing Corporation, Inc.
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The goal of the BCJI program is to fund projects that improve community safety by designing and implementing effective, comprehensive approaches to address crime within a targeted neighborhood as part of a broader strategy to advance neighborhood revitalization through cross-sector, community-based partnerships.

The BCJI grant program runs on a 36-month project timeline with actions for initial 15-month project period consisting of research and planning. The remaining 21-month period is used to implement program strategies. The Jacobsville Crime Free Alliance community update inform residents and stakeholders about the research analysis conducted over the project period, and successes of programming during the past 15 months of the implementation phase. Community update participants are provided with information regarding the most significant crime issues / crime drivers affecting the neighborhood, including the original twenty-two hot spots where frequent crime occurred; program partners and programming status; and current survey and crime data results.

“Seeing all the ideas and strategies put into action to address crime brings hope to the neighborhood. The greatest impact of the Jacobsville Crime Free Alliance has been awareness of the steps we as citizens can take to directly impact crime issues – I didn’t have a working knowledge of how to plug myself into civic processes before this initiative, but now I have found my voice and it’s the greatest lesson I’ll carry with me, said Melissa Tines, President of the Jacobsville Neighborhood Improvement Association.

Since the beginning of the project, the Crime Free Alliance has been closely tracking crime data in the Jacobsville neighborhood, including the crime hot spots. Data is based on all reported criminal incidents in the hot spots, which are compiled and provided by the Evansville Police Department. **“The objective data allows us to clearly show the reductions in crime and to better inform the community about the impacts of project activities,” said Jason Chadwell, Senior Consultant for Diehl Consulting Group.**

“Early crime data results show there is a 30% reduction in crime occurrences in the original twenty-two crime hot spots in Jacobsville from January 2013 to December 2015; and a 50% reduction in crime occurrences in the original twenty-two hot spot areas from the time ECHO Housing Corporation was awarded the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Enhancement Grant September 2013 to December 2015,” said Cooke.

Who: ECHO Housing Corporation’s Jacobsville Join In, Diehl Consulting Group, Evansville Police Department Crime Prevention Unit, Jacobsville Neighborhood Improvement Association, and North Side Business Association.

Where: North Side Business Association October General Meeting, DiLegge’s Banquet Room, 605 N. Main Street, Evansville, Indiana.

When: Tuesday, October 25, 2016 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, presentation at 6:00 PM.

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