

CAJE Update – August 10, 2020

Good morning, Justice Seekers!

We held our annual Celebration on Zoom last week. Thanks to all those who attended and sent an investment via PayPal or to the CAJE PO Box!

To date, over \$32,000 of our \$70,000 goal has been received.

As a reminder, your financial investment can be mailed to:

**CAJE**

**PO Box 18172**

**Evansville IN 47719**

**OR**

**Through our website**

**[www.gretereansvillecaje.org/donation](http://www.gretereansvillecaje.org/donation) (click on the read INVEST tab)**

Several of our research teams were busy last week.

Our *Safe Neighborhoods* committee was in communication with councilmembers, the Department of Metropolitan Development and Mothers Against Senseless Killings (MASK) Evansville. Our committee prepared a statement urging the city to find the funds to contract with the National Network for Safe Communities (NNSC). At Large Councilman Ron Beane has agreed to read the statement for record at tonight's meeting.

Also at tonight's meeting, Ward 3 Councilman Zac Heronemus will read a statement from CAJE's *Affordable Housing* committee. This statement reminds the Mayor of his commitment to allocate into the 2021 \$500,000 for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund - and urges the City Council to approve the entire amount.

You can view tonight's City Council meeting, which begins at 5:30 on the local access channels, if you have cable, or be clicking on this link: <https://www.evansville.in.gov/egov/apps/services/index.egov?view=detail;id=13> and then click on **VIDEO**.

Our Listening Process Kick Off and House Meeting Training will be held on Zoom **Monday September 21 6:00-8:00 pm.**

**[The attendance of all CAJE Clergy and Team Captains \(House Meeting hosts\) are strongly encouraged to attend.](#)**

There is a strong likelihood that many, if not most, of the congregational House Meetings will be held virtually (Zoom or Google hangout). The 9/21 Kick Off is an important event to attend.

**Have YOU scheduled your House Meeting? CAJE staff will reach out to all Team Captains this week to ensure all House Meetings are scheduled by the end of August.**

***Our Listening Process takes place September 22 - October 25.***

CAJE members have a unique opportunity to attend a *national grassroots training on our Research to Action process!*

The Direct Action Research and Training (DART) Center will offer what has traditionally been an in-person three day training as a two day webinar **November 12 & 13!**

**\*\* This training is fully funded by a grant and is of no cost to you. \*\***

CAJE staff will reach out to Clergy, Team Captains, Network Members and Recruit congregation representatives in the coming weeks.

Finally, please be on the lookout for information on how you can quickly and easily contact city and county leaders as 2021 budget hearings begin next week. There is much at stake for our community!

\* It is imperative that the Vanderburgh County Council continue to fund the salary of a second Case Manager for Aurora's successful Re-Entry program

\* The need for safe, decent and affordable housing is even greater due to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. We must urge Mayor Winnecke to allocate at least \$500,000 into the Affordable Housing Trust fund for 2021 - and City Council must approve the full allocation. Thousands of our neighbors depend on us to push for the creation of additional affordable housing in Evansville.

\* Many of our neighbors live in fear in their own homes! A partnership between the city and the NNSC is a logical first step in reducing group violence and shootings that lead to property damage, injuries, and senseless deaths. Mayor Winnecke and the City Council must make this a priority!

As always, please contact CAJE staff, your Team Captain, or reply to this email if you have questions.

I pray each of you remains safe, healthy and retains a strong desire to create a community that is more equitable for all God's children!

Peace,

Amy DeVries  
Lead Organizer

Congregations Acting for Justice and Empowerment (CAJE)  
734 W. Delaware St., Suites 236 & 238  
Evansville IN 47710  
812-760-3700