



# *City of Apache Junction*

## *Development Services Department*



**DATE:** July 5, 2017

**TO:** The Honorable Mayor and City Council

**THROUGH:** Bryant Powell, City Manager  
Larry Kirch, Development Services Director  
Heather Patel, Grants Administrator

**FROM:** Alexandra Rodriguez, Intern  
Nicole Sonnenburg, Intern

**SUBJECT:** Strong Sustainable Community Initiative neighborhood programs

### **REQUEST**

Presentation and discussion of the Strong Sustainable Community Initiative neighborhood programs.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2014, the city created the Strong Sustainable Community Initiative. The Strong Sustainable Community Initiative (“SSC”) is a holistic collaborative effort within the community to revitalize neighborhoods while creating a viable community for business investment, growth and success.

This initiative was established to create a viable city program that recognizes the importance of strong, sustainable neighborhoods that in turn support residents of Apache Junction and those businesses who serve our neighborhoods.

The Purpose of the initiative was to make concerted efforts to invest in our neighborhoods and provide clean, safe and desirable environments in which to live. By creating strong neighborhoods, we build a solid customer base which helps support our local businesses and the viability of our local economy. With healthy neighborhoods and business, we increase the quality of life for our current residents and attract new residents who want to be part of our community.

Over the past three years the city has focused on two neighborhoods which are required to be located within a redevelopment area. These neighborhoods are the Smythe and the Grand View neighborhoods. These focused efforts include infrastructure improvements, neighborhood clean-up events, neighborhood meetings, and sharing of community information and resources.

## **DISCUSSION**

In an effort to grow the SSC initiative, staff sought the help of interns from Arizona State University to identify ways residents could become more involved in the revitalization efforts of their neighborhood. By identifying potential projects and revamping the city's website, residents will feel empowered to make a difference in their neighborhood. The information shared with the city council will be shared with the public via a press release and on the city's website at [www.ajcity.net/SSC](http://www.ajcity.net/SSC) on August 1, 2017.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff respectfully recommends the city council receive a presentation.

## **ACTION REQUIRED**

Presentation and discussion of neighborhood programs.

