

Investing in Danville Town Hall 10/22/20 2pm-3:30pm Notes

Chat: n/a

Q&A:

Anne Marie Stockwell: What investments will be made to address racial disparities and inequities? (re housing, policing, criminal justice system, etc)

Ken: we don't have specific list right now, but asking the public is a large part of ensuring there is a positive outcome for all residents in all neighborhoods. If you have any specific ideas, I'd love to hear them. I am concerned with gentrification and do not want to price people out of the City who want to live here.

Danielle: PFM team is working on looking at where inequities lie within the City. We want to look at what areas need specific kinds of investment and find the places that have not been invested in the past.

Anne Marie Stockwell: I am moving to Danville from California so please forgive me if this has been addressed in other forums. Other than webinars like this, what opportunities do community leaders have to provide their input and feedback regarding decisions being made?

Ken: There are citizen positions on different boards, as well as open discussion periods at the beginning of City Council meetings. You can also reach out to the City Manager directly via email or by phone.

Open Discussion:

What missing from the list, what does Danville need to succeed?

John Ranson: Education is an issue; I've been here 30 years and the schools haven't really gotten better. This feels like an opportunity to have a really good school system. We need to figure out what it takes to have a top-notch school system in a city of this size. City needs to be creative, is there a consultant we can hire to think outside the box? I don't think the schools are terrible, there's just a division, there are so many kids who get left behind. If you want to apply yourself you can get a good education, but we need to lift everyone up.

Ken: We have a great opportunity to make an impact on education in partnership with the school system. I agree with you, if we can improve our schools a lot of the other problems like public health and desirability of properties in the city are more easily solved. If we have great schools, businesses will be more attracted to the region, and it will be easier to retain those businesses.

John Ranson: Need to prioritize the high importance items, I don't want money spent on areas that don't need the investment at the time just so everyone gets an equal amount of investment.

Danielle: We are using equity to mean spending funds on the groups who need the funds most, it does not mean each group gets the same amount because some areas do not need investment, while others need more.

Anything about the dangers of a casino, gambling addiction, etc.?

Ken: A portion of state revenue is set aside for problem gaming programs, best administered at the state level because people will likely be coming from out of town. The state has more resources, but if there is a need locally the City is open to enhancing the state programs. The City selected Caesar's because they were impressed with their process around problem gaming, they have trained people to recognize issues and address problem gaming, and they follow industry best practices. Studies and the police chief have expressed that there is not likely to be a spike in crime around the casino that would be different from any other large development that attracts lots of visitors.