ARISE DETROIT! SURVEY SHOWS NEIGHBORHOODS HAVE IMPROVED, BUT DETROITERS STILL CONCERNED ABOUT GENTRIFICATION, SCHOOLS, CRIME AND INCLUSIVENESS

Detroit – More than 40 percent of Detroiters say their neighborhoods have improved over the past two years, but they still have serious concerns about crime, gentrification, underperforming schools and whether local officials are committed to an inclusive city revitalization effort.

Those were among the key findings of the first annual ARISE Detroit! State of the Neighborhoods Survey, drawn from its partner network of more than 400 block clubs, community associations, churches and businesses.

The nonprofit community mobilization group released the survey results November 2 at its 10th Annual ARISE Detroit! Neighborhoods Rising Summit.

“It seems to be a pretty balanced and critical look at what’s happening in the city right now,” said Luther Keith, ARISE Detroit! executive director. “Clearly, people are feeling good about some things, but are not satisfied with the progress, or what they perceive as a lack of commitment, in other areas.”

Based on more than 100 responses to 17 questions from residents in neighborhoods across the city, the survey found:

- **IMPROVED NEIGHBORHOODS**: 43 percent said their neighborhoods have improved over the past two years. Respondents said the improvement is
based on an increase in new residents, new homeowners and new businesses.

- **DECLINING NEIGHBORHOODS**: 18 percent say their neighborhoods have gotten worse over the past two years. Blight and crime are cited as the main reasons for the deterioration.

- **INCREASED NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT**: 74 percent said they have seen more investment in housing, businesses and restaurants in their own neighborhood or in other neighborhoods.

- **GENTRIFICATION**: 56 percent view gentrification as a problem in their neighborhoods; 32 percent do not.

- **GENTRIFICATION IMPACT**: 47 percent said gentrification has increased housing and rental costs; 20 percent said it has targeted amenities for new residents; 17 percent said it has changed city culture; 7 percent said it has increased shopping prices in the city.

- **GREATEST IMPACT**: Ranking the impact of different groups in revitalizing Detroit (with seven being the highest ranking and scoring reflecting an average), respondents listed: Block clubs, neighborhood associations and residents, 4.8; city administration and elected officials, 4.4; businesses and corporations, 4.1; foundations and philanthropy, 4.0; churches, 3.9; state government, 3.5; federal government, 3.3.

- **GREATEST BARRIERS TO REVITALIZATION**: (Percentages based on multiple question responses); 54 percent, (tie) crime, underperforming schools, poverty; 52 percent, lack of economic opportunity; 27 percent, illiteracy.

- **AWARENESS OF JOB PROGRAMS**: 60 percent said they are aware of new job opportunities or job training programs; 34 percent said they are not.

- **KEY TO ATTRACTING NEW RESIDENTS**: 20 percent, reduced crime; 19 percent, (tie) reduced auto insurance, improved schools; 14 percent, increased economic opportunity; 4 percent, reduced property taxes.

- **ECONOMIC INCLUSION**: 70 percent said they do not believe the civic, corporate and foundation communities have gotten the message on the importance of inclusive neighborhood revitalization.

- **RATING MEDIA COVERAGE OF NEIGHBORHOODS**: 72 percent said the media are not doing a good enough job of telling the story of life in the neighborhoods.

- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**: (Percentage of respondents involved in these areas); 77 percent, block clubs or community associations; 48
percent, volunteer programs; 30 percent, church programs; 28 percent, youth services.

- **HOPE FOR DETROIT’S FUTURE:** 88 percent said they are hopeful about the future of their neighborhoods and the City of Detroit.

**About ARISE Detroit!**
ARISE Detroit! is a nonprofit community mobilization coalition of more than 400 churches, block clubs and businesses promoting volunteerism, community activism and positive media images to create a better Detroit. ARISE Detroit! has promoted and marketed more than 2,000 events held in connection with Neighborhoods Day since it began in 2007. For more information, call 313-921-1955 or visit [www.arisedetroit.org](http://www.arisedetroit.org). ARISE Detroit! is located at 5555 Conner, Suite 1233, Detroit, Michigan 48213.