



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**

**James O. Langfelder**  
Mayor

Springfield, Illinois – The City of Springfield is implementing a new approach to City services through an interdepartmental and interagency Community Connections event this **Saturday, October 29, from 12-noon to 4:00 p.m.** in the neighborhood between **11th to 18th Streets and South Grand Avenue to Cook Street.**

The **Springfield Police Department** began reviewing their ShotSpotter Connect data, which is a crime analysis tool that helps officers with crime forecasting and prevention along with bringing person-centered and trauma-focused resources to areas of need.

“Analyzing historical crime data and predictive analytics are critical tools for the Springfield Police Department, not only to reduce crime, but to help us create more holistic community engagement efforts,” said **Springfield Police Chief Ken Scarlette**. “Ongoing positive interactions with our residents, such as this connections event, helps build trust and confidence with our officers but also creates stronger relationships with all City departments and a greater partnership with our neighborhoods.”

This data was compared with other City department information including the **Office of Public Works** and **Office of Planning & Economic Development**. This specific geographic area came back with one of the highest numbers of blighted homes, more rental households and low homeownership, low to no access to broadband, increased property code violations, and higher crime compared to other neighborhoods in the City. This area is also the focus of the City of Springfield’s **Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Fellow, Sai Joshi**, who started the City’s efforts to revitalize blighted neighborhoods this past August.

“Our immediate focus is on neighborhoods in need of crime remediation and improved quality of life; however, these efforts do not succeed in siloes,” stated **Mayor Jim Langfelder**. “We need City departments working together to build a holistic approach to addressing these urgent challenges. The City of Springfield is much more than providing a service. It is about working with the whole person and helping access assistance and opportunities that start at home. Bringing together our departments and agencies will foster resident development, and what we believe is best for Springfield’s neighborhoods and our community as a whole.”

This Community Connections effort is a three-pronged approach that focuses on *Outreach and Education, Addressing Resident Questions, and Fostering Collaborations* between city and outside agencies.

For the last two weeks, City of Springfield crews have been working in this area cleaning up alleys, trimming trees, and repairing streetlights. Residents received a door hanger on Wednesday that notified them that City departments will be onsite Saturday, going door-to-door to discuss their needs. The door hanger also included a brief survey to help residents think about items that may be affecting them or members of their household. City staff will pick-up any completed door hangers Saturday and if a resident will not be home, they may leave it on their door and an employee will pick it up.

City workers will meet at the open lot across from Feitshans Elementary School at **11:30 a.m. Saturday** before heading to their assigned locations. Approximately 10 teams of two employees each will be deployed door-to-door and include representatives from CWLP, Public Works, Planning & Economic Development, the Springfield Fire Department, and the Springfield Police.

In addition, Public Works crews will be working in the area conducting various maintenance duties



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including sweeping streets, cutting back alleys, replacing and installing new signs, and addressing fly dumping matters.

A **free, Family Fun Zone** will also be set-up in the open lot across from Feitshans Elementary School. This area will include snacks provided the Springfield Police Department's "Meat and Greet" trailer, bounce houses and games, along with various City and community agencies will be present providing information and services including blood pressure and other health screenings, ability to sign-up for a Lincoln Library card, job and educational opportunities, plus much more. **Anyone from the neighborhood or community is invited to come out.**

This is the first event of this kind for the City of Springfield and more are planned for 2023.

**Bloomberg Harvard Fellow Sai Joshi** commented, "Cities across the country are implementing innovative interdepartmental and interagency collaborations to pool resources and engage on-ground with communities in need. The City of Springfield is committed to working together with residents and want to instill that they are an important force in improving and maintaining the neighborhoods in which they work and live. We are hopeful that this event, and the many others planned for the next year, will have a significant positive impact on Springfield. We hope to learn from this event and build a robust strategy to continue working toward the betterment of blighted neighborhoods."

Outside agencies also participating Saturday include Lawrence Education Center, Memorial Health, The Outlet, Sangamon County Department of Public Health, and School District 186.

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