



August 2022

Community Engagement

Providence Mayoral Candidates Meet With Residents For Conversation



About 65 people turned out Aug. 10 at Father Lennon Park to hear the three candidates for mayor of Providence during “Candidate Conversations,” a ONE Neighborhood Builders hosted forum in the heart of the city.



Three residents asked mayoral candidates Gonzalo Cuervo, Nirva

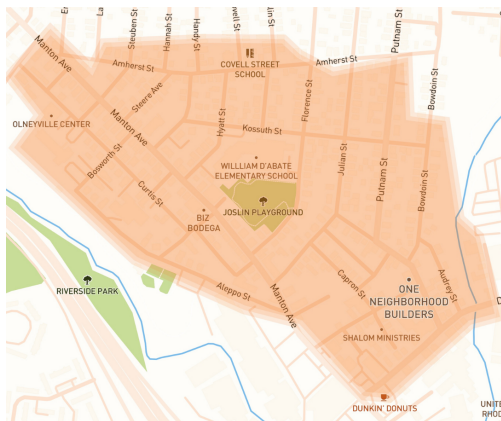
LaFortune, and Brett Smiley a series of questions, ranging from health care, public safety and policing, affordable housing, education, to child care.

Jennifer Hawkins, Executive Director of ONE|NB, introduced the candidates and explained how important issues are to everyone in the city, particularly in the 02908 and 02909 zip codes, where ONE|NB serves as the backbone of the Central Providence Opportunities: A Health Equity Zone.

“If you live in Smith Hill, your life expectancy is six years less than if you live in College Hill, and that has nothing to do with whether you see your doctor or take your medication,” she said. “It’s because of issues in the neighborhood whether you have access to affordable housing and quality jobs and good education. These are things that are not only important, but they actually impact your ability to live. Those are the issues that we care deeply about.”

“The most important thing we can do as residents to address these issues is to vote and be civically engaged,” she added, pointing out that voter registration was available at Wednesday’s forum.

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Network: [OV Community WiFi - Free](#)

Free WiFi in Olneyville

We spent July and August canvassing the Olneyville neighborhood of Providence to let residents know about our **faster and expanded** free WiFi program. OV Community WiFi is the free network in the neighborhood, available to anyone in the area shown at left.

[Click to enlarge](#)

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CPO-HEZ To Collaborate in Distributing \$1M Through ‘Participatory Budgeting’



ONE|NB’s Central Providence Opportunities: A Health Equity Zone will soon collaborate in distributing \$1 million in Central Providence using a process called “participatory budgeting.”

Participatory budgeting is a democratic process in which community members decide how to spend public funds. The \$1 million to be distributed through CPO-HEZ is part of a pilot project from the Rhode Island Department of Health. Pawtucket Central Falls HEZ, backed by Local Initiatives Support Corporation, also will aid in the distribution of an another \$450,000 through this process.

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Join Us for Fresh Fridays!

More than two dozen people joined ONE Neighborhood Builders on July 15 for Fresh Fridays—a monthly, virtual gathering for learning and sharing about community development—focusing on Resident

Leadership Development as a core component of community building work. [Watch that session here](#)

Join us for our next Fresh Fridays session, focusing on Community Engagement & Voice will be held from 8:45-9:30 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 26. [Click here to register.](#)

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