

CharlevoixVillage

ASSOCIATION

Long-term Detroiters reply to Mayor Duggan's "City for Everyone"

Much fanfare has been given to Mayor Mike Duggan's "8 principles of development" unveiled at the Mackinac Policy Conference. Meantime, the voices of long-term Detroit residents continue to be ignored and misrepresented.

Mayor Duggan's speech and principles offer the glitz and glamour of a Mayor who cares for long-term Detroit residents without actually offering anything that responds to our needs and desires.

Since Mayor Duggan and other elected officials consistently fail to properly and truthfully speak for Detroiters, the Charlevoix Village Association has written a point-by-point reply to Duggan's principles to make clear what principles we believe creates a "City for Everyone." We are tired of the games, empty rhetoric, and false discussions that facilitate our displacement and resegregation within our own City. We have drawn a line, and we dedicate ourselves to building a movement that demands equitable and anti-racist development for all of Detroit. We will actively resist every development that doesn't do this.

1st

Duggan says: Everyone is welcome in our city

CVA responds: We have always been a welcoming people and city. The issue is having a city that still is welcoming to us and having people who come to the city and actually want to be part of our community, not replace us and create a separate place to which we have no access.

2nd

Duggan says: Detroit won't support development if it displaces current Detroit residents.

CVA responds: We have already been displaced by City-backed development in Downtown and Midtown. They may call it "relocation". But relocation is still displacement. To stop this from happening, every new housing development should be mixed income, integrated housing. At least 40% of all new housing needs to be set aside for individuals and families between 30% and 60% AMI. Section 8 vouchers must be accepted as a condition of development. Rent control and stricter laws on insurance rate increases are necessary to make sure people are not pushed out when development comes and raises the cost of living. The City must adopt a moratorium on foreclosures to protect long-term residents from displacement. Grant funding for people struggling to maintain their homes must be made easily accessible to those in need.

Long-term Detroiters reply to Mayor Duggan's "City for Everyone"

3rd

Duggan says: The city will fight economic segregation by pushing jobs into all neighborhoods.

CVA responds: *We want quality jobs, access to high skilled training, and opportunities for better employment. We say "No!" to putative drug testing and criminal background checks, and we reiterate the need for access to development for all of Detroit.*

4th

Duggan says: Blight removal is critical.

CVA responds: *Keeping homes occupied is critical! More money should be diverted to rehabbing of houses than demolishing them. All blight should be addressed at the behest of the community, with proper inspection of the houses.*

5th

Duggan says: Detroit will create walkable neighborhoods.

CVA responds: *Make every neighborhood walkable, and create public transportation between them.*

6th

Duggan says: Those who stayed will have a voice.

CVA responds: *Our voices matter NOW. Hear us clearly: no development will happen without our consent.*

7th

Duggan says: Jobs and opportunities are available first to Detroiters.

CVA responds: *Make this statement real! Open access and opportunities up to Detroiters through an aggressive campaign to notify people for job opportunities. Provide real training for people of color. People need long-term employment with career opportunities, health insurance, and retirement benefits. Eliminate barriers caused by drug testing, criminal background checks, and transportation.*

8th

Duggan says: The riverfront is for everyone.

CVA responds: *The over-policing of the riverfront makes it expressly not for everyone. Stop the harassment and racial profiling of youth of color! Do not allow development of private spaces on the riverfront. Stop the pollution and remediate the contamination of the Detroit River so it can be enjoyed safely for everyone.*