

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS – JANUARY 28, 2010 ANNUAL MEETING

Good evening. I have the pleasure of delivering some of the more exciting pieces of business on tonight's agenda, including announcing our Neighborhood Leadership awards.

First off, I would like to recognize all of the members of the TWDC Board of Directors for the service and commitment to the Tremont West Development Corporation and Tremont community. Over the course of this past year, they've provided me with support to grow our organization. Tremont is lucky to have such an enthusiastic group of ambassadors.

(Thank you to our board)

Now, before we dive into this year's accomplishments, I encourage each of you to review your 2010 Annual Report to the Neighborhood – I think you'll find that this past year was a full one. We seen successes in neighborhood marketing in adding new events like the marathon and comprehensive an overhaul of our website. And this past year, Tremont welcomed 15 new businesses to the neighborhood. 15 new businesses in 2010 – show me another neighborhood with that kind of vitality. And with the support of TWDC, we saw the completion of two major housing developments in Tremont Pointe and Tremont Place Lofts, bringing over 400 new households to the neighborhood. Additionally, we fostered significant progress on smaller developments that you've no doubt seen throughout the neighborhood: Tremont Valley Homes (near Clark Field), Buhner Avenue Green Homes and our newest partnership with Cleveland Housing Network – Opportunity Homes with rehabs on Professor and West 5th.

But, of course – our work is evidenced in far more than just bricks and mortar (new rooftops and new businesses). Our work is seen in the ways that our neighborhood rallies to address any aspect of our community’s fabric. If it’s not marching onto the West 14th Street entrance ramp, then we’re waiving signs to preserve a fire station. Or it’s when we stand together in a peace rally in response to an arson. Well, this year our unity was demonstrated through the outcry of support to preserve Tremont School. It was little more than a year ago today that each of us learned of CMSD’s then-proposed closure of Tremont School – and look at what this past year has resulted in...

The school was kept open

We organized a summer program which served the whole neighborhood

We organized fundraisers and cleanups

And late last year, Tremont Montessori’s ranking was vaulted from Continuous Improvement to Excellent. One of only 4 elementary schools in the CMSD system to be rank so high.

Truly this is a testament to the value of community support.

There are a number of newer programs that have continued to be successful for us. Tremont West continues to successfully manage the Cleveland Housing Network’s Near Westside portfolio of affordable housing units as well as increasing our own inventory. We also continued to administer model block programs providing grants and rebates for replaced driveways, new fencing and landscaping - through the city of Cleveland and NPI. We’ve also made significant progress in efforts to establish new parking in-and-around our business districts. In May of 2010, we at long last unveiled the parking lot near Professor and Jefferson which has been recognized as a new standard in

wastewater management through the use of a bioretention area. TWDC has also secured agreements from both the Cleveland Public Library and CMSD for shared use of those facilities parking lots.

At my year in review report last year I cited the then nearly completed TLCI report, which would serve as our neighborhood's comprehensive list of top recommendations for public/connectivity improvements. I am pleased to report tonight that this report did not collect dust on a shelf – but rather yielded multiple grant proposals to the Ohio EPA and the Ohio and Erie Canalway Association. And most recently a proposal in partnership with the city of Cleveland to NOACA for federal funding to support streetscape intersection improvements on Professor Avenue. I am proud to report that TWDC and the city were fully funded - \$600,000, plus design match from the city. There are two members of our staff who worked as a team on this project and I would like to recognize for this tremendous achievement – without their passionate conviction and fundraising advocacy and just downright tenacity this new \$600,000 capital investment wouldn't be possible.

(Thank Kristen Trolio and Michelle Davis and Appluse)

TWDC will move this project forward while simultaneously pursuing additional new resources for future projects. Likewise, TWDC will be at the table for major infrastructure improvements such as the Towpath Trail and Innerbelt projects – which stand to overhaul the very face of Tremont and way that we move in-and-out of this community. 2011 will also continue to be a year of new strategic partnerships in our neighboring communities such as our new collaboration with Ohio City Near West and developing efforts in the Flats community in partnership with the Downtown Cleveland Alliance and Historic Warehouse Development Corp.

Once again for the full range of achievements over 2010 (which include the development of new homes, new businesses, amazing projects by all of the block clubs and interest groups in Tremont, as well as expansion of our amazing event series) – I encourage each of you to review your Annual Report that you received as you entered this evening.

Now I would like to take a moment to recognize the staff of TWDC. The staff commit tireless hours to the needs of all of Tremont. The TWDC staff are resourceful and dedicated professionals who are committed to the vision of TWDC. Most of our staff is here with us tonight, and so I would like to take a moment to recognize those individuals. (READ ALL THEN APPLAUSE)

Qualetha Carty – Office Manager

Michelle Davis – Marketing/Fund Development Director

Katie Hough – Ward 3 Area Coordinator

Robert Rodgers – Property/Housing Programs Coordinator

Scott Rosenstein – Community Organizer/TACF Coordinator

Kristen Trolio – Community Organizer/Model Blocks Program Coordinator

(Bob Shores – shared Staff with OCNW – Safety Coordinator)

Alex Finnarn – VISTA Intern

Chris Jenkins – Case Western MSASS Intern

Thanks to all of the Tremont West staff.

And finally, it is my privilege to recognize the outstanding people and organizations that have provided the leadership necessary for making this neighborhood the finest in Cleveland.

Our first award this evening is the 2010 “Spotlight” Award. This is a newer award that gives us an opportunity to cast a “Spotlight” on a key partner to the Tremont neighborhood. Past recipients include, the Cleveland Fire Department and the Neighborhood Connections Program.

It’s in that spirit that this year’s Spotlight Award is presented to Tremont Montessori. It goes without saying that over the course of 2010 Tremont Montessori has been a tremendous partner and deserves congratulations on well deserved Excellent Rating. Unfortunately, Principal Grant was not able to join us this evening – but we do give them our congratulations.

(applause)

Our next award this evening is the Partner of The Year. Past recipients include Jean Bandt for her coordination of our monthly ArtWalks, and ParkWorks for helping us provide programming in Lincoln Park...

It's in that same spirit in I'm pleased to announce that this year's Partner Award goes to the Tremont Trek Home Tour. Year after year, the Tremont Trek showcases homes from around the neighborhood for an event like no other – featuring cuisine from our exciting culinary establishment. More importantly, the Tremont Trek then award small grants to programs around Tremont – which have supported everything from Maps Around Tremont to children's programs at Merrick House. It's for these reasons that I'm proud to recognize this year's chairs, Kerry Capwell and Mark Marck on behalf of the Tremont Trek Home Tour as our 2010 Partner of Year.

(applause)

Next up is our Ward 3 Neighborhood Leader of the Year. Every year, TWDC recognizes one exceptional leader from Ward 3 and one from Ward 14. This year's Ward 3 Neighborhood Leader has been an active leader with the Friends of Clark Field and Tremont Residents Service Corp. During the time with the Friends of Clark Field she can be counted on to take part in nearly every events benefitting our neighborhood's children. She's probably a familiar and I know that I'm happy to greet her every morning.

Please join me in recognizing, Mattie Matusik as our Ward 3 Neighborhood Leader of the Year.

(applause)

This year's Ward 14 Neighborhood Leader of the Year has been a longtime Tremont resident. She's contributed time in coordinating TWDC events both while on and off of our board. She's a tremendous part of the fabric that makes groups like the Tremont Gardeners and Metro North Block such vital elements of our neighborhood. Please join me in recognizing Sandy Smith as the 2010 Tremont West Ward 14 Neighborhood Leader of the Year.

(applause)

Our next award is our Gail Long – Distinguished Service Award. Since 2001, we've recognized individuals that have best encapsulated the true spirit of a Tremonter. Past recipients have included Sister Corita, Beverly Wurm, and Ricardo Sandoval – all people who truly set the bar for volunteerism, leadership and define a "good spirit".

This year's recipient has been an active member of the TWDC board. His commitment to neighborhood safety is tremendous as evidence by his frequent communications. Since he began as the Chair he has grown the Safety Committee into an institution all of its own – coordinating safety preparedness trainings and court-watches. It's with that in mind that I am pleased to announce this year's Gail Long Distinguished Service Award goes to Deane Malaker.

Congratulations.

(applause)

Finally, tonight, an award that we established two year's ago - I would like to recognize a Tremont West staff member who, over the course of the past year, has demonstrated particular leadership and professionalism. I would like to bring this person up here, and then if you'll permit me I have a few comments that I would like to share. So, with that said - this year's TWDC Staff Member of the Year is, Kristen Trolio. (applause)

In her nearly three years at TWDC, Kristen has become an invaluable asset. When we were approached three years ago by a then fledging group of local farmer's, it was Kristen who rose to the challenge to rebuild and grow the group that you see today in the Tremont Farmer's Market. This season the market hosted 25 sessions, both indoors and at an ever-expanding Lincoln Park venue. This past season Kristen leveraged new resources from the Gund Foundation to support the Market's EBT customers – who represent over \$2,200 throughout the 2010 series. As our Model Blocks program coordinator, it was Kristen who pressed the 807 Jefferson Parking Lot and Bioswale initiative forward – adding not only much needed public parking to our Professor Avenue business district and in true Tremont fashion incorporating partners who added a pioneering biorentetion system to boot. And it was Kristen who eagerly stepped up to organize and sustain our efforts to support Tremont Montessori – and over the course of the past year has coordinated a Friends of Tremont School group that has brought resources and partners such as Neighborhood Leadership Institute to Tremont Montessori.

Please accept this token of my appreciation. In the tradition that we established in past years, as opposed to a plaque, I thought you might appreciate a lunch at one of our lunch-time spots.

Finally tonight a few Thank You's. First, a special thank you to Dennis McNulty for hosting our meeting here at OLA/St. Joseph Center. And, thank you to Sr. Corita Ambro and crew for preparing and serving our meal this evening and for your help in setting up the hall.

(applause)

Also, I'd like to recognize our Board President.

Thank and invite Lynn Murray for the Treasurer's Report