

What We Heard

The following feedback was compiled by the Philadelphia City Planning Commission (PCPC) during the first stage of the community engagement process for Neighborhood Remapping: Roosevelt Boulevard to Sedgley Avenue. On September 4, 2024, the PCPC and Councilmember Jeffery Young, Jr. hosted a community meeting to discuss the remapping area bounded by West Erie Avenue, North 9th Street to North 6th Street following the 5th Council District boundary, the railroad tracks, and North Broad Street. Roughly 45 community members were in attendance. Comments from attendees were documented during the question-and-answer portion of the meeting as well as the interactive map sessions. In addition, the Philadelphia City Planning Commission released an online survey to community members open from August 19-September 21, 2024 to collect more input on the area's zoning. Twenty-two people completed the survey. Below is a summary of zoning-related feedback and survey results which will be used in informing the Philadelphia City Planning Commission's recommendations in the neighborhood remapping process.

If you have additional feedback related to the remapping of this neighborhood, please get in touch with Nathan Grace, North District Planner, at planning@phila.gov or (215) 683-4648.

Land Use Feedback

- Voice of Praise Church's zoning does not match the activities that take place there.
- Junkyards are disruptive to residential neighborhoods.
- Proximity to public transportation is an asset to this neighborhood.
- Commercial
 - There is support for the commercial corridor being on Germantown Ave.
 - There is a need for a grocery store, including fresh food, in the neighborhood
 - Or other big box stores like Walmart/Target.
 - There is a need for more laundromats in the neighborhood.
 - Auto shops are a nuisance to nearby residences.
 - There are too many small stores like nail salons that aren't useful to neighbors' day to day or week to week
 - Need more necessities like pharmacies.
 - Residents would like more sit-down restaurants and cafes in the neighborhood. There are enough take-out restaurants.
 - Residents would like more clothing stores.
 - Residents would like (a) community center(s) for youth and seniors.
- Industrial Conversions
 - Broadly, there is little appetite for industrial uses anywhere in the neighborhood. The highest priorities are properties near residential areas and those with big parking lots.
 - Block of Sedgley between Germantown Ave. and Allegheny St. is a Head Start facility and a school – no need for it to be zoned I-2.
 - There is a wish to address harmful industrial uses north of Erie Ave. (i.e. the second remapping area.)

- Train tracks – lots of issues with industrial uses (junkyards) and overgrown brush near the tracks. Issues with fires near the tracks. There is a need for some way to buffer this area from residential homes.
- Residential
 - There is room to adjust zoning for multi-family (RM-1) and single-family (RSA-5) to match what homes are used for now.
 - Residents would like more affordable housing for low-income individuals and families in the neighborhood.
 - Residents would like more ADA-accessible housing for seniors and people with disabilities.

Property Maintenance and Compliance Feedback

- After-hours stores and clubs – *They may be allowed to sell tobacco supplies. Contact the Department of Licenses and Inspections (L&I) for illegal clubs and stores selling illegal substances.*
- Are gambling machines legal? – *Contact L&I.*
- What do we do about vacant homes? – *Contact L&I or the Community Life Improvement Program.*

Street and Sidewalk Feedback

- Can an auto shop have the exclusive right to park on a street? – *No, contact the Philadelphia Parking Authority.*
- Residents want more street lighting between 11th St., Erie Ave., Venango St., and the railroad tracks.
- Some residents would like streets to be striped with paint and have speed bumps. Speeding cars on small blocks is a problem.
- Residents would like better trash removal and more street trash cans.
- Some residents would like more bike paths and bus shelters.
- Many residents would like newly paved streets and sidewalks.
- Residents envision a future with tree-lined, well-lit, healthy, safe streets.
- Residents have issues with industrial uses (like junkyards) as well as overgrown brushes and fires near the train tracks. There is desire for a buffer between industrial uses and residences.

Other Feedback

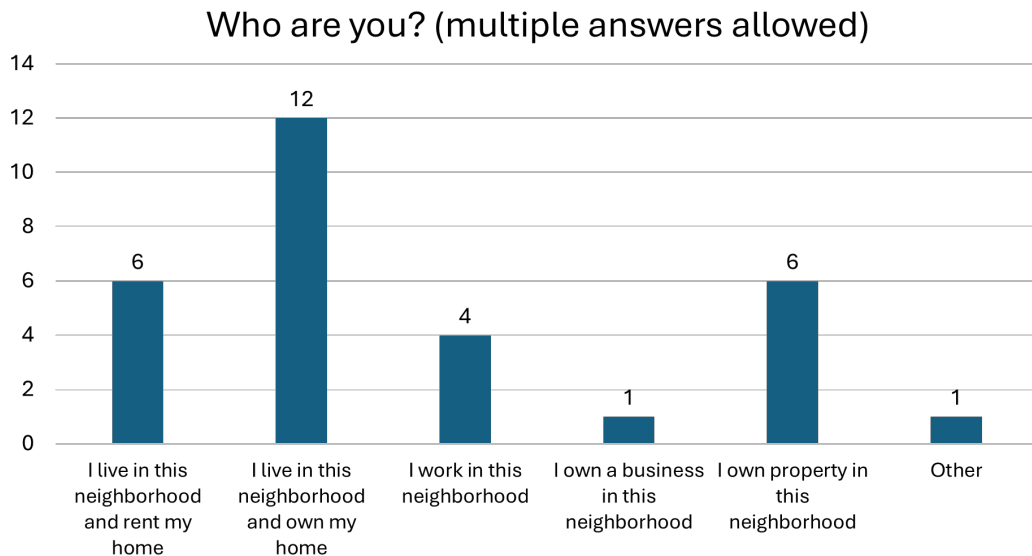
- Many residents do not believe that there are quality jobs in the neighborhood.
- Many residents would prefer more single-family homes than apartments.
- Some residents appreciate the Department of Planning and Development expressing interest in the neighborhood but would like more education on how to access information on the Registered Community Organizations, the zoning process, grants, and resources that the City offers around community development.

Comments from the September 4, 2024, Meeting

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|---|-----|
| General zoning question | 44% |
| Auto shops and junkyards as nuisances | 15% |
| Lacking specific businesses in neighborhood | 11% |
| Comments about a specific property | 7% |
| Industrial land as nuisance | 7% |
| Too many repeat businesses | 4% |
| Comment outside zoning area | 4% |
| Support for remapping | 4% |
| Support for Germantown Ave as commercial corridor | 4% |

Summary of Survey Results

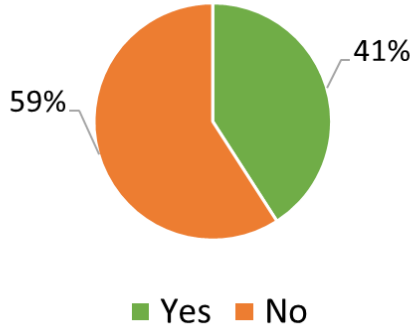
- 22 survey participants



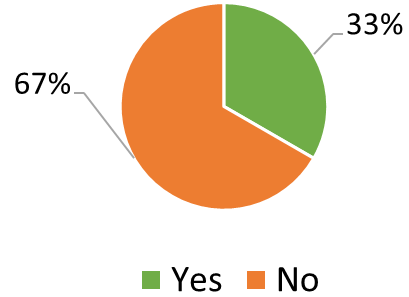
- What do you like most about your neighborhood? - Highlights
 - "Germantown Avenue and its connection to a lot of small businesses."
 - "It is close to all types of transportation. Where we live is finally a somewhat quiet place in the city. There are more people concerned and interested in making things better in the community."
 - "The people who once were kids are now adults and homeowners lifting up their (our) communities. It's great to see your fellow citizens take part in doing what's best for our community."

- What activities can you do in your neighborhood? (multiple answers allowed)

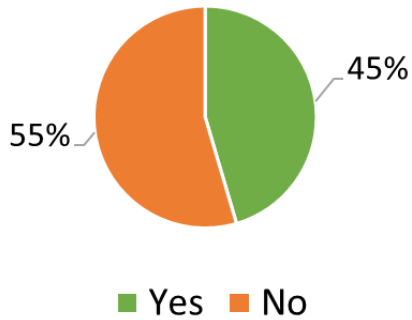
Can you grocery shop in your neighborhood?



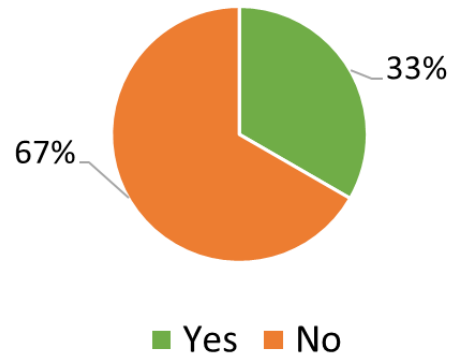
Can you go to the pharmacy or doctor in your neighborhood?



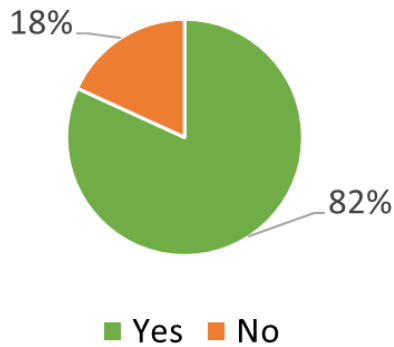
Can you buy household supplies in your neighborhood?



Can you go to the bank in your neighborhood?



In your neighborhood, can you take a bus or train to other neighborhoods?



- Which businesses and services are lacking in your neighborhood? - Highlights
 - Dry Cleaners
 - Nice eat-in restaurants
 - Supermarkets
 - Senior center resource center
 - Pharmacy
 - Bakery
- What do you want the future of your neighborhood to look like? - Highlights
 - "I want to be able to shop, have nice eat-in lunch or dinner, get coffee, or ice cream"
 - "Removal of industrialized machinery, junk cars, scrap yard and nonviable products that presents a health risk to the existing community"
 - "Thriving with economic growth and healthy living conditions"
 - "Clean, environmentally healthy, safe, and green."
 - "New housing, newly paved streets and sidewalks, a variety of stores (dress shops, kids wear), trees, flowers, small playgrounds."

Helpful Information

City of Philadelphia Department of Planning and Development: (215) 683-0286

- <https://www.phila.gov/departments/department-of-planning-and-development/>

City of Philadelphia Department of Licenses and Inspections: (215) 686-8686 and 311

- <https://www.phila.gov/departments/department-of-licenses-and-inspections/>

City of Philadelphia Department of Streets: 311

- <https://www.phila.gov/departments/department-of-streets/>

City of Philadelphia Community Life Improvement Program: 311

- <https://www.phila.gov/departments/community-life-improvement-program/>

Philadelphia Parking Authority: (888) 591-3636

- <https://philapark.org/>