



**Baltimore Neighborhood
Collaborative**

May 10, 2001

Ms. Betty Robinson
218 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Betty:

The Baltimore Neighborhood Collaborative would like to invite you to discuss the concept of a training institute for Baltimore area organizers. The meeting will be on Wednesday, May 23, 2001, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. at 2 East Read Street, 8th floor conference room.

For quite some time a number of people have been discussing the need for a local training program for organizers. Recently the Baltimore Neighborhood Collaborative received seed money to pilot such a program for our grantees and other organizations in Baltimore. We hope that this pilot can be a catalyst for an on-going training program for organizers to provide skill development and peer networking support in their efforts to strengthen their community outreach, community organizing, and neighborhood planning work.

We are asking you to join a small work group to develop this initial pilot and to plan a longer-term effort. BNC plans to hire a consultant to work with us to further develop the concept, conduct a feasibility study and to develop an initial curriculum. I think your ideas and experience, coupled with other professionals in this field, will greatly inform the group on how to proceed with developing this program and would like very much for you to join us.

In preparing the agenda for the meeting it would be helpful for me to gather some initial thoughts that you may have regarding a training institute for organizers. I have attached a brief survey to collect your ideas and suggestions. Please fax or mail the survey by Friday, May 18, 2001. Please call me at 410-727-0169 if you have any questions. I hope you can join us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tanya Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tanya Jones
Baltimore Neighborhood Collaborative

To Tanya Jones:

Training Institute discussion pre-survey:

1. What do you think the biggest training and professional needs are for organizers in Baltimore?

Consistent training which deepens organizers knowledge + skills on general community organizing as well as on issues impacting neighborhoods.

2. What local programs or related training courses do you know of that are currently offered for organizers?

BNON's occasional training; BNC's training for their grantees; all else is catch as catch can and might involve a speaker from outside Baltimore who

3. What do you think is missing?

is visiting or sporadic training. A conscious, intentional program that looks at the state of organizing, needs, ~~on~~ etc and development of a program. This will allow us to recruit better organizers + keep people in this profession.

Here is my response to the survey, I will: (please indicate with and check mark)

Be able to attend the meeting on Wednesday, May 23, 2001 at 12 p.m.

Not be able to attend but would like to be part of future discussions.

Can not attend and due to time constraints will not be able to participate in the work group.

Name: Betty Robinson Phone: 410 539 1369

Organization: CPHA Email: bettyr@cphabaltimore.org

Please mail or fax your response to Tanya Jones- Baltimore Neighborhood Collaborative, 2 E. Read Street - 8th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21201. Fax #: 410-727-7177

Please respond by Friday, May 18, 2001