

City of Brooklyn Community Survey

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Appendix A:
Open Ended
Comments

Submitted to the City of Brooklyn, Ohio:

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Do you have any other suggestions for improving the quality of City services?

- I think according to our abilities; the City is doing great. I hope in the near future our financial resources will improve to the point where all facets of the quality of life for the citizens will be much better.
- More police visibility, not just parked somewhere not paying attention.
More police visibility and action during the 20 MPH times in front of schools, too many people speeding.
More police visibility in streets, especially the neighborhoods on the “outskirts” of Brooklyn (off Tiedeman and Memphis).
Enforce parking ban and snow ban on smaller streets and dead end streets, too many people taking advantage.
- Hire more service department employees.
Pool maintenance at the recreation center.
Leaf pick-up extended, weather permitting.
Communications through mailings, daytime meetings for more public involvement.
Image, improve public places. Outreach to surrounding communities, joint activity.
Use Copper Stone for community meetings and events.
- Tired of paying taxes.
In the last year, two employees (I went to school with) work for the city, they laugh. They cannot be held accountable; for being unproductive or unqualified. You cannot be held accountable. My taxes are paying their wages/benefits.
Want a tax increase, cut safety services (police and fire). Never heard of cutting administration or other services first? What are you doing to get max productivity?
- Mayor and council need to take a salary cut, and leave city services alone.
- As a parent of a student in high school and intermediate school, I wish they would have more security. For example, metal detectors at the entrance at the schools. Thank you.
- Beautification of city residential streets. Add trees and landscaping. Remove unoccupied commercial buildings and create space. No blight in Brooklyn, blight brings values down.
- Beautify the city at the entrance points at Memphis and Linndale.
- Better snow removal. Sunday hours for pool.
- Bring back Brooklyn’s dispatches for police and fire. I’m not happy with routing through another city, it causes delays.
- Brooklyn does a great job.
- Brooklyn is an aging community and limited by the availability of land to build housing that appeals to today’s younger generation.
- Brooklyn is so centrally located to all the major highways and downtown. Positioning it as a great place for young professionals, like myself, would be amazing. Young professionals want to be close to the city and have easy access to places like Lakewood, Downtown, Lyndhurst, etc. because of the activities/nightlife these cities offer. Brooklyn is great because it is close to these, but still gives the suburban feel without all the pricy taxes and disruptive bar scene as some of the other cities. I decided to live in Brooklyn for these reasons, and I think many other young professionals would do as well, if they knew about all the great benefits.
- Buses to the city.
- City parks are more important to me than recreation center, pool, and ice rink. City services and police are most important. Adding new business to the area.

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- City services are adequate, instead of asking residents for more taxes concentrate on getting retail and small industry to help tax base. Small wind farm where American Greeting is sitting.
- City zoning laws should be correlated to city parking laws or bans.
- Community gardens where elementary schools were. Deer population. Two less council members. Police ease up on residents, i.e. 28 MPH on 25 MPH street going down a hill, warnings for minor vehicle violations instead of tickets. Small communities should look out for each other.
- Continue to build relationships between schools and city and share resources.
- Continue to keep the city safe.
- Crime, crime on the increase. Most concerning to me.
- Customer service cordiality could be much better.
- Decrease loitering on Ridge Road, especially at Ridge Park Square. Decrease loitering on Biddulph Road.
- Distracted drivers, cell phones are a major concern. Why have a law and then chose to look the other way?
- Do a better job for the people that live here. Also, certain people that work there have bad people skills. The ones that collect money from tax payers.
- Do more to improve racial composition in all aspects of the city, as the city draws in new residents. I think it will help break down stereotyping. The Cuyahoga County library is an asset to improve the city in many ways.
- Do not replace park with condos or businesses. Support the school system. Do not allow open enrollment.
- Encourage school rules. A great school system equals a great city.
- Enforce bans and loud neighborhoods, dogs barking, should not have broken down cars in driveways for years and years. It looks trashy.
- Extend leaf pick-up period. Pick-up/debris before cutting grass or just leaving debris. Clean streets more often. Don't paint the crosswalks blue anymore. Don't buy new school books every year.
- Fix up the property where the elementary schools were demolished and open up the track by the stadium for seniors.
- Focus on areas that are most effective with the entire community. Some of the smaller programs are just eating money with return. Need to attract better businesses for attractive job opportunities. Need strict guidelines for contracted work. Overpaying for projects that could be done quicker for less while maintaining quality.
- For cost measures, recycling blue container should only be picked up once a month. The blue container is large enough to hold flattened recycled items. I have lived in Brooklyn my entire life, 52 years. Part of me stays because my parents still reside here, since 1961. The changes that I have seen, wow. My feelings currently of Brooklyn, is to put it blunt, "ghetto" the new Denison. We have a lot in our city to be proud of. Example, the Brooklyn library. But since the schools Brookridge and Rodoane have been torn down, empty, decayed weed grown parking lots with very nice black light posts just sit. Those light posts should be relocated for use again. The road between the schools is "treacherous." It just seems gone forgotten land. Some cities have movie night. Clean up the area "revitalize it." But hey, it's Brooklyn, just keep letting it go. The Brooklyn Rec example, if St. Ignatius pulls out of hockey what happens to the recreation center? Next to decay. Bring in quality business to Brooklyn. What is allowed in will bring trouble. I know the people running Brooklyn are from Brooklyn. Get this city to where it once was. Yes, there is a lot to be addressed, but all of you grew up in Brooklyn and it is up to you to reinvent Brooklyn. You are all in office for a reason, a common goal to make Brooklyn shine.

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- Foreman and service director should be replaced with someone with experience. There is no follow up on the jobs.
- Get good quality TV coverage at city functions.
- Good idea to permit people to walk their dogs on the trails by Memorial Field.
- Grass cutting for seniors, better snow removal.
- Great place, many folks, family, and friends, would suggest to all. Love it.
- Have the Mayor talk event with residents on their streets or at the library or high school auditorium. Have up to 5-7 streets in an area so groups are small and allow residents to talk without a microphone.
- Home values are declining, thinking of selling and moving. Homes are not maintained. Not enough street lights or police on streets. Parking ordinances not enforced. Schools are lowest rated.
- I am a widow, I find that my taxes are too high.
- I am very pleased to live in the city of Brooklyn, I feel comfortable and safe.
- I believe racial profiling is going on here. Black motorists are pulled over more.
- I believe we need to bring in more businesses. Businesses that are around for a long time. We have ample locations such as the corner of Clinton Road and the old AG site.
I believe the recreation center needs an indoor basketball facility. You could have leagues. I used to pay \$700 per quarter to be in the Lakewood League.
Work with Cuyahoga County to bring in more retail business at Ridge Park Square. Brand names would bring more people in.
- I hate paying for the recreation center when the water is so cold. That's great for swim teams, but not for family swimming. I hate paying for the recreation center. Also, we need a grocery store like Hunan's or Whole Foods with healthier food options.
- I just moved here in May, but the services seem good. The streets could use some work, especially side streets. Although, we have not had much snow, the days we did, my street (Ira) had not been touched when I left for work at 7 a.m.
- I live on Biddulph Road and many motorcycles go by spring and summer all day. Don't know if they do, but police need to ticket and stop the extremely loud ones. Very irritating. I have never seen police stopping a motorcycle.
- I think the terraces at Northridge should provide recycling services.
- I think we have too many council members, five should be adequate.
- I think you are doing a good job for our city.
- I wish the city took a more active role in the schools not just putting it off on super or board.
- I would like to stay in Brooklyn if I have to move to assisted living if at all possible. I can't say I'll be here in the next five years.
- Improve sidewalk maintenance.
- It bothers me that the Ridge Road repairs took so long and that the construction is already showing wear. I think more bike trails/lanes would attract a younger population.
- It seems as though seniors have the run of the city. We need more younger people or families to move in. I am disabled and I could use the city's help with the sidewalk shoveling. But they won't.
- I've seen many other cities' recreation centers and Brooklyn comes far last to the other cities' recreation centers.
- Joining the senior center and the recreation center. Mayor Gallagher is doing a great job. Promote rain barrels.
- Keep tax reasonable.
- Keep the alley/court in good condition.

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- Keep the recreation center open.
- Keep up the good work and promote Brooklyn as the fine city it is, promote, promote.
- Lazy cop gives tickets at stop sign at Idlewood.
- Less pay for Mayor and council.
- Less rental properties. Brooklyn has become much more transient with less people having a stake in the community's future.
- Limit rental properties. Renters seem to not care about the appearance of the city.
- Look to the future and work on attracting young professionals and young families to live in this nice city. Great location, great housing, nice parks and recreation facilities, and good schools are in Brooklyn but many young professionals I encounter at work or active in Cleveland either don't know that the city exists, thinks I'm from New York, or thinks the city is backward and old fashioned. Hire a real full time economic development director to bring businesses that can attract the next generation of residents here.
- Maintenance of streets is my priority. Orchard Avenue has been waiting four years for resurfacing along with Torrance. Can we have public transportation through the city. Again, maintain our parks and other facilities.
- Memphis Avenue: finish the lanes on it by the industries. Talk with Linndale about in closing bridge 25 MPH to 30 MPH, working with banks on assistance programs for home repairs, etc. The city could probably get great rates for its citizens.
- More bullet points on suggestions.
Eradicate the drugs from the city.
Remove all non-resident students from the school system, they are a bad element to carry too much influence.
Replace the street lights with new white lights instead of amber.
Hire more police, firemen, paramedics, city garage workers, housing and zoning inspector, and a full staff of information technology staff. Don't outsource IT work.
- More community events, maybe a parade or Halloween event.
- More diverse senior center and programs.
- More lighting is needed on residential streets.
- More maintenance on trees. Trim any trees that hang over sidewalks and streets.
- More notice of what's going on. Place benches around the city.
- More programs for youth and seniors. Update recreation center. Keep a closer eye on school system.
- More senior programs.
- My trash doesn't get picked up every week. My sidewalks never get plowed. There are so many potholes and bumps in front of my house on Ridge Road.
- Myself and relatives have had auto thefts and garages broken into, lost bikes and mowers.
- Need definite animal control, and ease of getting into contact with same. Also, upgrade laws concerning control and ownership of pets.
- Need improvement in schools.
- Need to concentrate about people with good incomes to help, need to leave older and people with little income alone.
- Need to upgrade the recreation center, need more outdoor walking facilities.
- New to the area.
- New trash and recycling is bad. Hate awful big bins. Adds clutter. Get people to clean up yards, junk, trash all over behind garages. Cars they don't use are parked on the street, can't get out of your own driveway due to parked cars. Blacktop the holes, repair the streets.

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- No comments. We are satisfied with our city employees in the service department.
- No new taxes.
- Noisy cars, loose cats, people leave their yard waste all over. Some stores are very sloppy. Business trucks in driveways. People driving through stop signs at Brookwood and Ira every day.
- Notify the residents or be more open about crime. The more we know, the more we can be vigilant.
- Offer ability for apartment dwellers to recycle.
- On fixed income, no money for extra taxes.
- Overnight parking should be enforced all year.
- Partner with neighboring communities to reduce taxes for public services such as police, fire, parks, and recreation service department, etc.
- Plant more trees.
- Please do not increase tax.
- Please note in most cases I have given room for improvement, I am very satisfied living here, appreciate the efforts of the council, workers, and Mayor.
- Please provide a service that residents can notify if garbage/recyclables or yard waste is not picked up. More police in neighborhoods. Very tired of cars racing on the street.
- Please shovel the snow on all sidewalks and streets so people can go to stores and shop for groceries and hospitals and children don't have to walk in the heavy snow falls to and from school and it won't be hard for senior citizens to walk in.
- Police department, lacking in service to residents. Have reported multiple child abductions, predators in Memorial Park and around schools/library. Police would not arrest the perp. Librarians called parents to pick up terrified children, police did not do anything to ensure safety. Disgusting.
- Police department from dispatch to officers need an attitude adjustment. There should be a program where local children/teens are recognized for good citizenship.
- Police do not ticket people who park on sidewalks and near bridges. Very intense to drive on Idlewood.
- Police presence in neighborhood.
- Police should be at all shopping centers. Biddulph Plaza and Ridge Park Square are scary places. Will not go alone.
- Police should be in school zones, housing should be ticketing run down, abandoned and overgrown properties. Too many rentals. Taxes are too high for residents and services decrease.
- Police should enforce debris on Treelawn more closely. Side streets need to be paved/repared. Police station closes at 1500. Unacceptable.
- Post more speed limit signs on Biddulph Road, its 35 MPH and most people travel at 25 MPH or less between Tiedmonat Ridge, I think it's a 25 MPH zone. Very frustrating.
- Provide more police supervision in commercial areas. Do not privatize EMS services. Collect garbage cans from backyards again.
- Provide snow removal for older people and removal of grass. I'm too old.
- Recycling should be done every other week, not necessary to do weekly.
- Reduce City Council from 7 members to 5. City should have 5 wards. 1 council member per ward.
- Reduce city council from 7 to 5, work harder to get more business in the city, never should have lost Ikea, Coyne would not have.
- Reduce council to five members. Attract younger families/homeowners. Replace city hall. Co-op the rec center.
- Reduce the number of city council members.

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- Reduce the speed on Ridge Road between Bidelpath and Brooks Park to 25 MPH and enforce it.
- Reinstate pulling the rubbish cans. Need this service since I had a stroke.
- Remove all dead/dying trees from Marquand Park. Plant new trees to replace what is removed. Emphasize the very low residential and commercial tax rate. Advertise the available commercial properties. Enforce all public nuisance regulations. (Loitering, littering, loud music, graffiti, leash law, etc.) Enforce residential codes including lawn mowing, junk cars, perpetual yard signs, exterior basic maintenance including rental properties, etc.
- Repair to city streets, better public education and keep a safe close knit community.
- Road chug holes are getting bad, especially my street, Orchard Ave.
- Safety should be our major priority.
- Satisfied.
- Senior citizens need help with grass cutting, snow removal, and doctors' appointments. Brooklyn has no regard for them. It's a "dead" city. Go to Independence, Ohio and see how they are. Booming! Puts Brooklyn to shame. Also, Kennedy Drive is never really cleaned from snow like other streets.
- Senior snow removal more often. Enforce property owners to maintain yard service for seniors. Visit Middleburg Heights every day, eight to twelve senior Silver Sneakers programs. Much better programs.
- Should not have to pay an entrance fee to swim or skate since our tax dollars pay for the recreation center. Don't let another large company leave our city.
- Special help for seniors, maintaining property, assistance with trash pick-up, window cleaning, specific needs snow shoveling and grass, gardening for reasonable fees or volunteer occasionally.
- Start salting side streets. Need special education programs for kids and adults. Have council members hold laid back town hall style meetings.
- Stop handing out so many tickets for no good reason.
- Stop letting slum move into the city and actually do something about the bullying going on in the school.
- Stricter enforcement of public disturbance laws regarding vehicles with sound system operating at excessive volume.
- The bathrooms at the park never seem to be open. I have two small children that love the park. This fact is inconvenient.
- The building department needs to have an enforcement program that fines owners of properties that need to be repaired.
- The city could probably use a tax increase, but with the trouble the school system seems to be in with all the levies and another one coming up.
- The city is nice but I'd suggest adding recreational programs that would engage more of the youth in the community.
- The city should look at other sources of income such as grants and taxes from new businesses. Taxes are high enough and services should not be cut.
- The city should look for the efficiency in conducting their business and processes.
- The crimes and inner city residents have changed this city. Don't want to get out when daughter graduates from college, I am gone and won't look back.
- The only concern I have is the closing of the track to the public, I grew up in Brooklyn and moved back three years ago, I don't want to get exercise walking the streets. I want a nice chunk of money to live in this city. Please reconsider opening the track to the public. I am happy with everything else.

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- The parks are more important to me, rather than a recreation center, pool, or athletic programs. Strong police presence is important in changing times, keep my city clean and safe.
- The playgrounds in the parks need to be cleaned and maintained as well as the water fountains and bathrooms.
- The problems within the city are not financial, but rather it is inefficient use of current personnel.
- The quality of the public school system is very poor, the city should concentrate on improving the quality of teaching and student programs.
- There could be recycling bin drop offs and reduce the costs with a twice monthly pick-up.
- There is too much school money from each house and there are a lot of homes in the City of Brooklyn, maybe you need to take some of the money for the city. Our taxes are going up every year, the house is going down in value.
- Treat the city like a suburb, not the city of Cleveland.
- Try to attract new businesses to increase tax revenue.
- Upgrades in the recreation center. More workout machines. Finish the Shell Station on Ridge and Memphis. It's an eyesore.
- Use the right-side plows. Some have come into my driveway where the blade is too big and digs up my grass. Use the ones you use on sidewalks.
- Used to love our city. We used to have good schools, great parks. Now we don't. Negativity. I don't feel safe at night. I am willing to pay more taxes. Section 8 ruined our city. Hold landlords accountable. Don't let people get away with bad maintenance of their property.
- Utilize the softball fields. Leagues can make a city a lot of revenue. Make law enforcement accountable for doing their job. School board has to use their money more efficiently.
- Very happy with current city services, hope they can continue.
- Visibility of police day and night, also in shopping areas. Do not feel now as we did years back with safety.
- We are overall pleased with Brooklyn, but the recreation center needs updating and maybe an indoor basketball court added and better more parking. The grass area in front should be removed and add more parking.
- We bought our house 17 years ago, raised our family here and thought we would grow old here, but don't like how Cleveland is slipping into our city.
- We live in an apartment complex that doesn't provide recycling. It would be nice to have a recycling drop off within the city instead of traveling to Cleveland.
- We need a better recreation center, more options.
- We need an indoor walking track. I am a walker, always outside when it's nice, but in bad weather I have to go to LA Fitness.
- We need more police and fire.
- What am I supposed to do in an emergency? Where are shelters? What are procedures? There is no information about what to do, where to go, when the world falls apart.
- Why do we need 7 council persons?
- Why is this not available online? Sent in newsletter, having the balance of older/elders in the community as residents make this city strong. Keep or enhance these services. Attract larger business. Now that American greetings left. We have enough dental practices and enough medical offices. Ridge Park Urgent Care needs to be closed. Are there any open forums for these types of ideas? The older generation who are smart should be a large part of this because of their experiences.
- Would like to see park near Rodoan neater and maintained. Update the trails, too much excess water. More benches. Clean it up. Bring a nice store to that huge vacant space on Ridge Park Square.

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- Would like to see Radoan Road resurfaced. Would like to have the city do more to help out handicapped seniors.