



Welcome to

Wilkinsburg

**COMMUNITY – ORIENTED
DEVELOPMENT NOW!**

Wilkinsburg, PA

Marita Garrett, Mayor

Mayors Innovation Project –

1.24.2020

WILKINSBURG: AT A GLANCE



Population: 15,930 residents



2.2 square miles – borders City of Pittsburgh, Penn Hills, Swissvale, Edgewood, Forest Hills, Churchill



Wilkinsburg was known as the City of Churches. Bars and taverns were prohibited in Wilkinsburg since 1870, except during the years 1933 to 1935. *Ban on liquor sales were lifted in 2015*



Wilkinsburg is a major transportation hub, with 2 East Busway stations located in the Borough along with easy access to the Parkway.

CHALLENGES



Similar to neighboring communities in our region, Wilkinsburg experienced the negative effects of industry decline in the 1980s.



Increasing taxes, failing school district, flight to suburbs, drug epidemic, and gang violence resulted in blight and safety concerns



In 2016, 18% of properties were counted to be vacant and abandoned (around 800 parcels)



Negative perception of Borough

WHAT DO WE DO? WHAT'S NEXT?

- ▶ Asset-based Community Development
- ▶ Leadership and revitalization efforts must come from within the community

THIS HAS BEEN THE STANDARD REDEVELOPMENT MODEL



The Correct Model



NOW

HUNTER BUILDING



COMING IN 2021

CREATING A SENSE OF SPACE AND VIBRANCY IN THE WILKINSBURG BUSINESS DISTRICT.

Penn Avenue View



Civically is committed to the lasting social and economic developments in Wilkinsburg. Through our programming, initiatives, and renovation of the Hunter Building we are assisting in the change in reframing the narrative of Wilkinsburg's future and not leaving anyone out of the story.



Wood Street View



We envision the first floor to be a multi-purpose space with a café, potential pop-up gallery for artists/artisans, and a courtyard to host various evening events to activate the block's nightlife are some of concepts to emerge from initial discussions. The second and third floors presents long-term opportunities for commercial space and office customers.

WILKINSBURG RISING

- ▶ **Redevelopment efforts have resulted in over \$10 million in funding over since 2015**
- ▶ **Ongoing efforts to stabilize the Central Business District – Wilkinsburg Train Station Restoration Project, Sleeping Octopus, 900 Wood Street**
- ▶ **Taxes decreased in 2018 and on schedule decrease again in 2020**

THANK YOU!

Marita Garrett

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