Neighborhoods as Community Assets (The Porters Community Narrative)

- Use the model process for neighborhood narrative that was piloted in Porters, including creation and communication of a narrative, and identification of development concerns and potential strategies to address them. The strategies should be a wide variety, including those that showed promise with Porters, such as the Heritage Overlay.

- The City's Neighborhood Coordinator could take the lead, but the program leadership would be collaborative across city departments (e.g., housing and planning). This would draw from many resources and create buy-in.

- Due to the significant need for neighborhood organizing and repairing relationships and trust, the City may need to allocate more staff and resources to the Housing Dept to run the program.

- The program would also be a partnership with the neighborhood leaders, following their direction, since the process is for them, to help them build capacity and identify strategies tailored to them. Recruit a diverse steering committee to represent the neighborhood, like we did in Porters.

- Identify program neighborhoods based on criteria similar to Porters (e.g., Sugarhill and Springhill). Start with one neighborhood to avoid overwhelm. Offer a different set of supports for other neighborhoods, such as 5th Ave/Pleasant St and Duval.

- Create a transparent program, possibly with website, to communicate criteria and progress. Proactively consider how to handle conflict.

- Set up a meeting between program leaders and the Porters narrative team and steering committee to share best practices and insights.

- Condense the process time for the next neighborhoods to less than a year by using lessons learned from the Porters project.

- The Heritage Overlay policy may need revision to enable it to apply to the neighborhoods in need. As currently written, the Heritage Overlay cannot apply to Porters (due to conflict with zoning). Also, the Heritage Overlay language is tied to visual and architectural characteristics, and thus it insufficiently values social/community and cultural aspects.

- Another tool to consider is a Neighborhood Protection Ordinance (see strategy table in the Porters project report on p. 122).

- Once revised, possibly apply the Heritage Overlay to Porters' residential area. Porters will continue to lead the way for neighborhood protection and advancement.