

## Berkshire Downs Neighborhood Survey June 2010



Last month we distributed a survey to the neighborhood and sent out e-mail notices to the people that are on the address list. We tallied the votes we have the percentage results of that vote. I wish that we would have had more participation, however just like the real primary resolution votes in the county. You can't count a vote if it is not cast.

Please review the following results and comments at the end of the document. Then if you still have any questions do not hesitate to contact me. If you leave your number I will call you back if you wish.

Thanks for your support, Sincerely, Mat Trickel

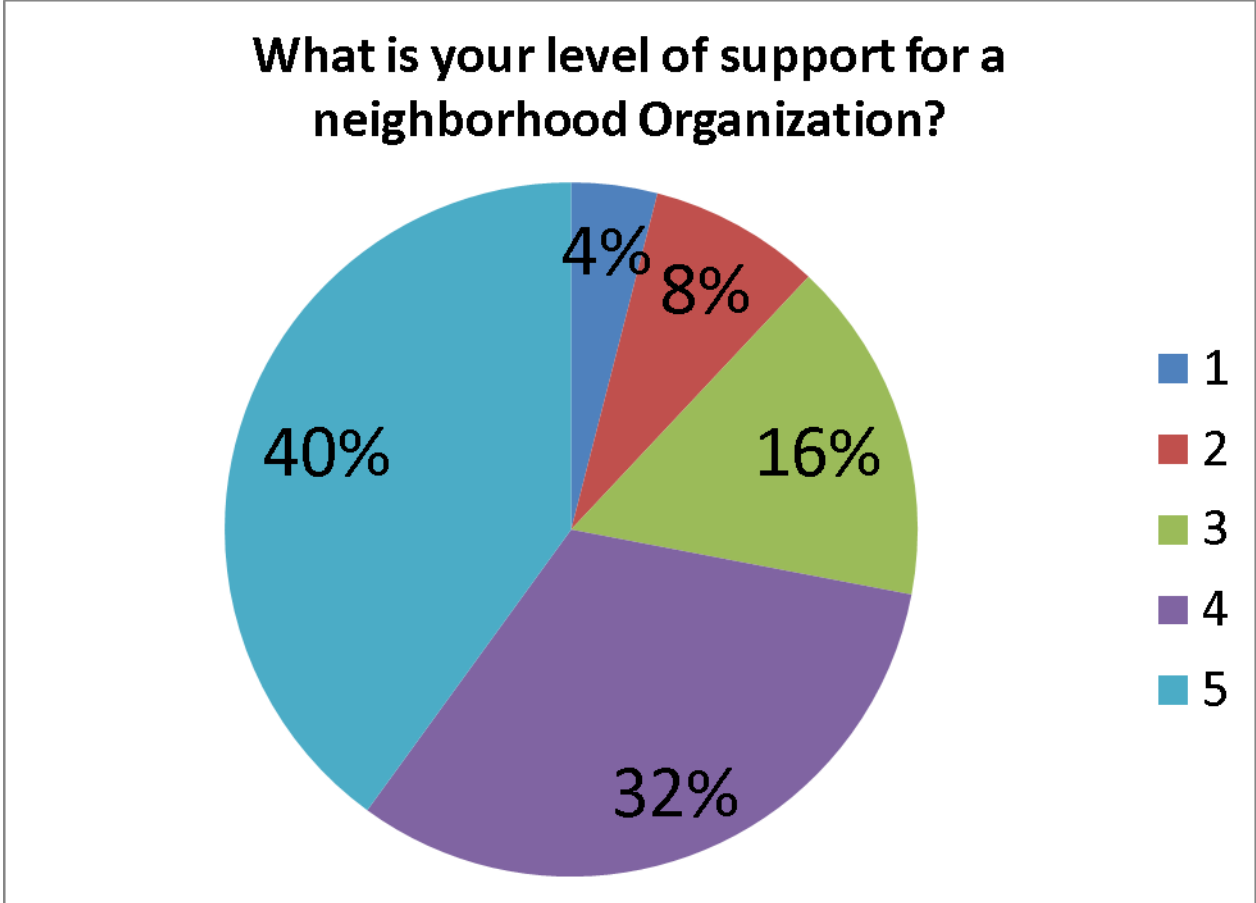
[mtrickel@yahoo.com](mailto:mtrickel@yahoo.com)

<http://jamtastik.com/BerkshireDowns.html>

(1= lowest level of interest/concern and 5= highest level of interest/concern )

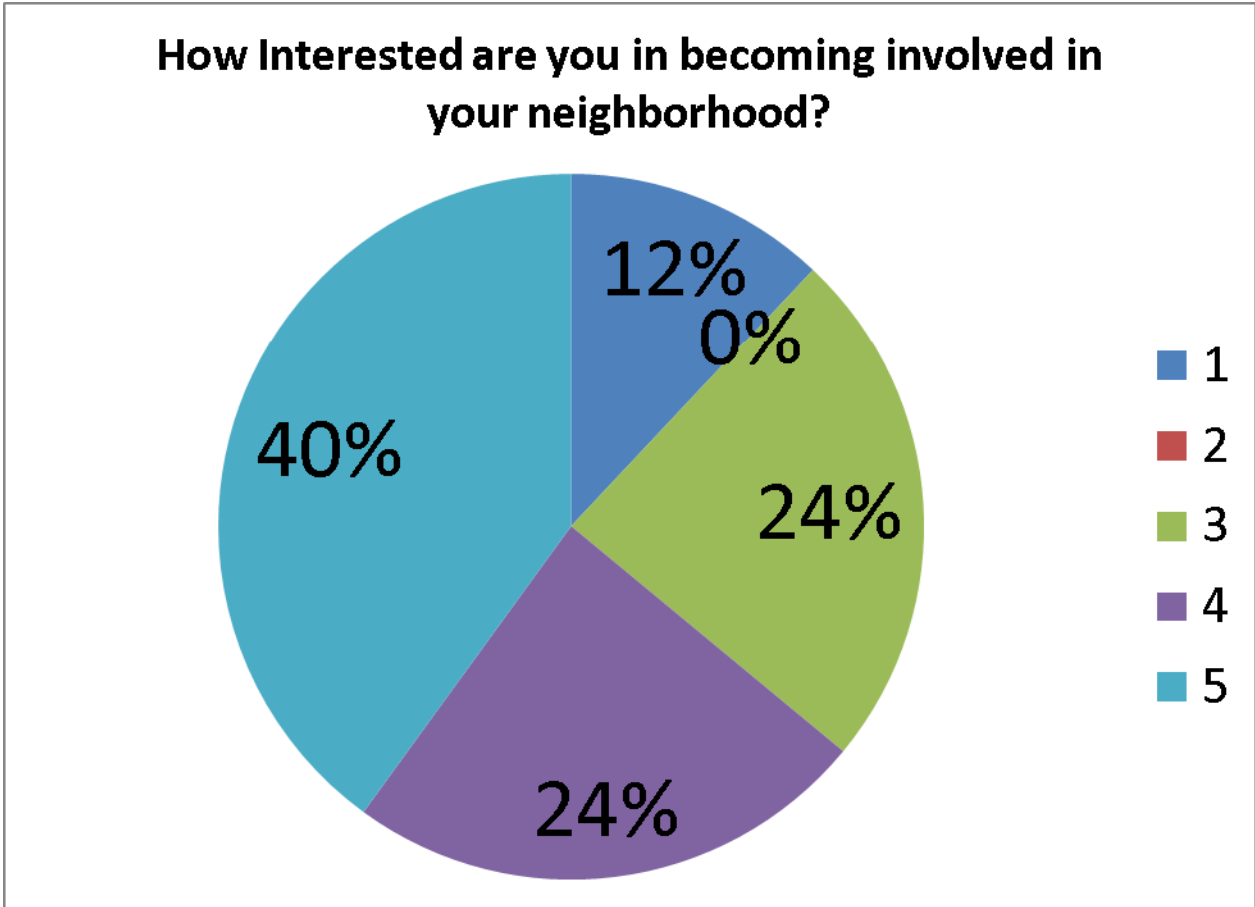
What is your level of support for a neighborhood organization committee?

4%	8%	16%	32%	40%
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>



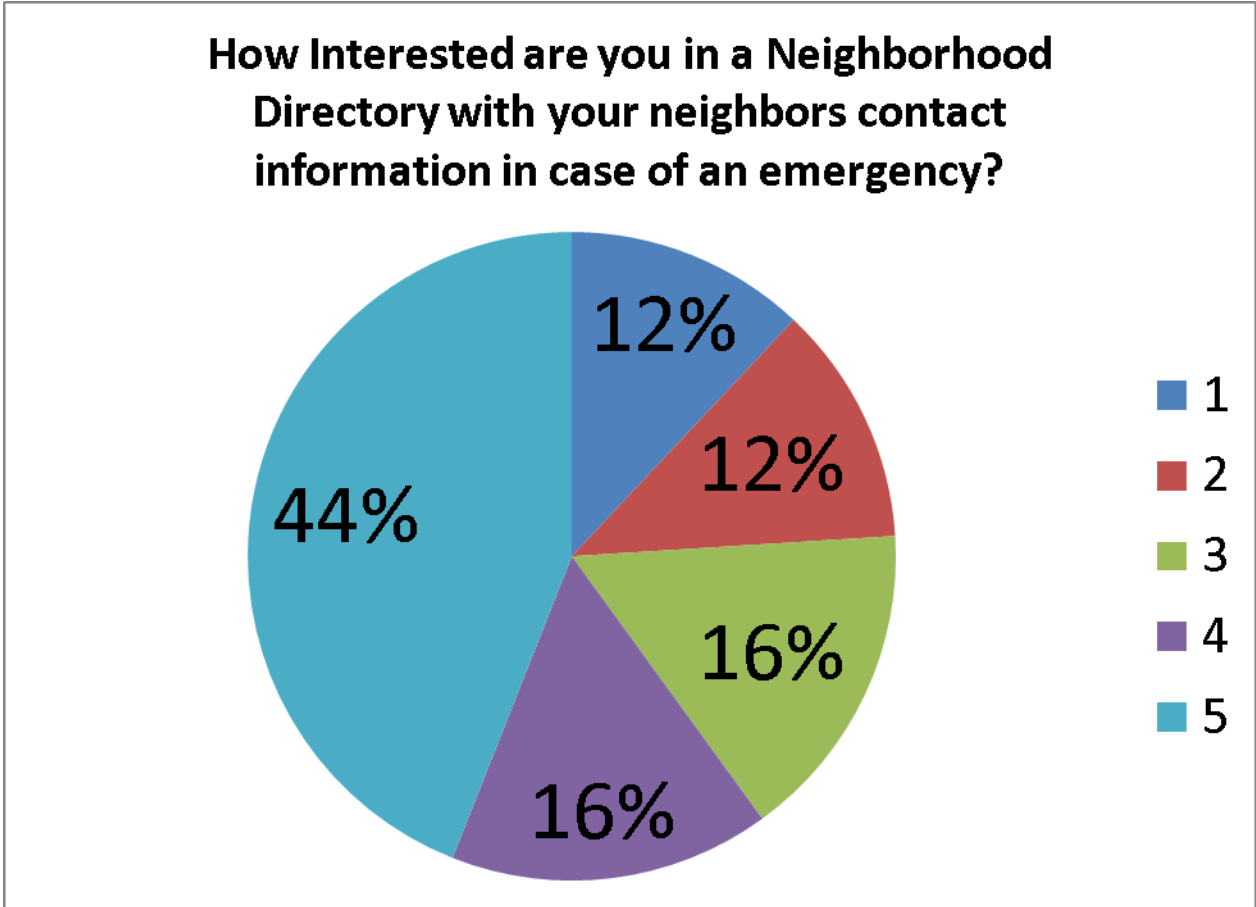
How interested are you in becoming involved with your neighborhood?

12%	0%	24%	24%	40%
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>



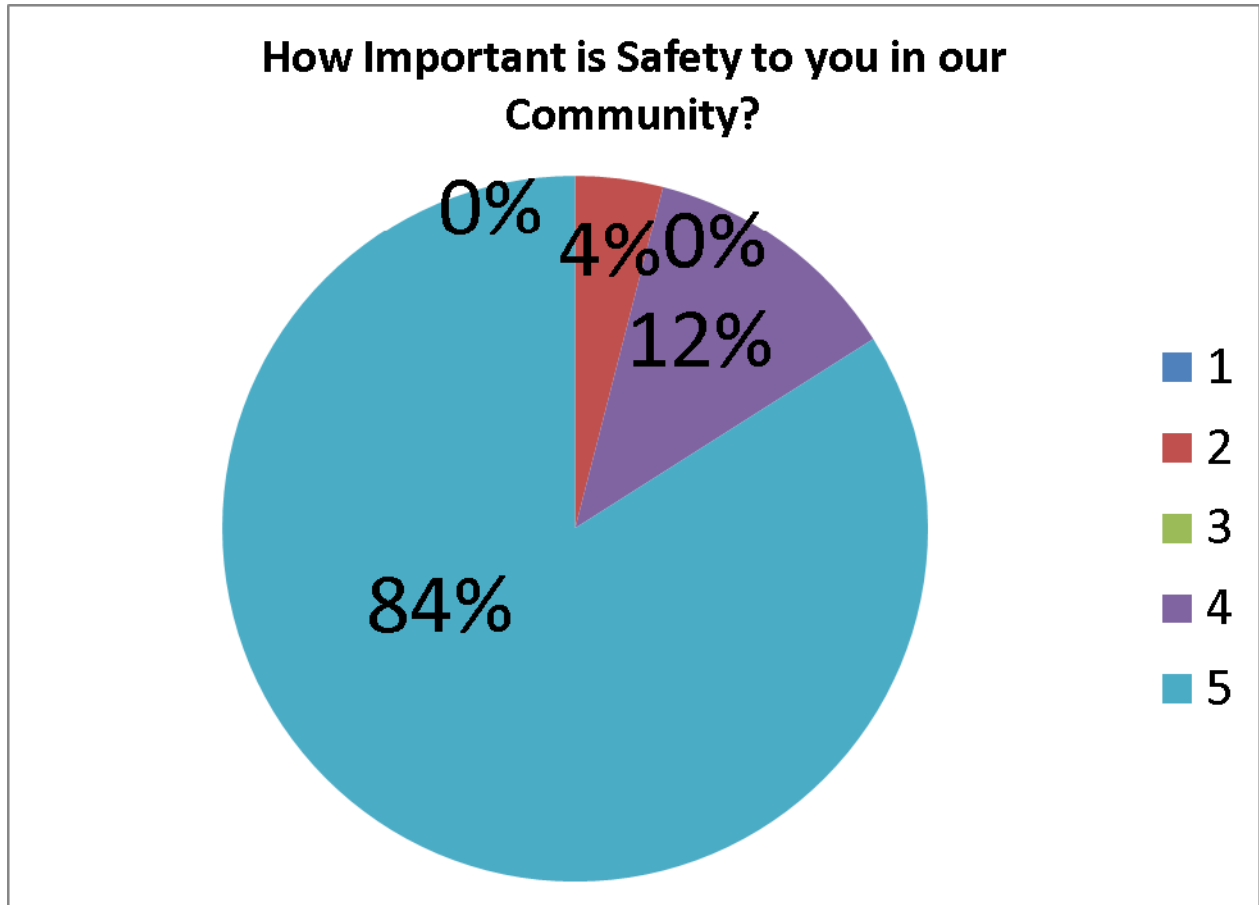
How interested are you in a neighborhood directory with your neighbors contact information in case of an emergency?

12%	12%	16%	16%	44%
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>



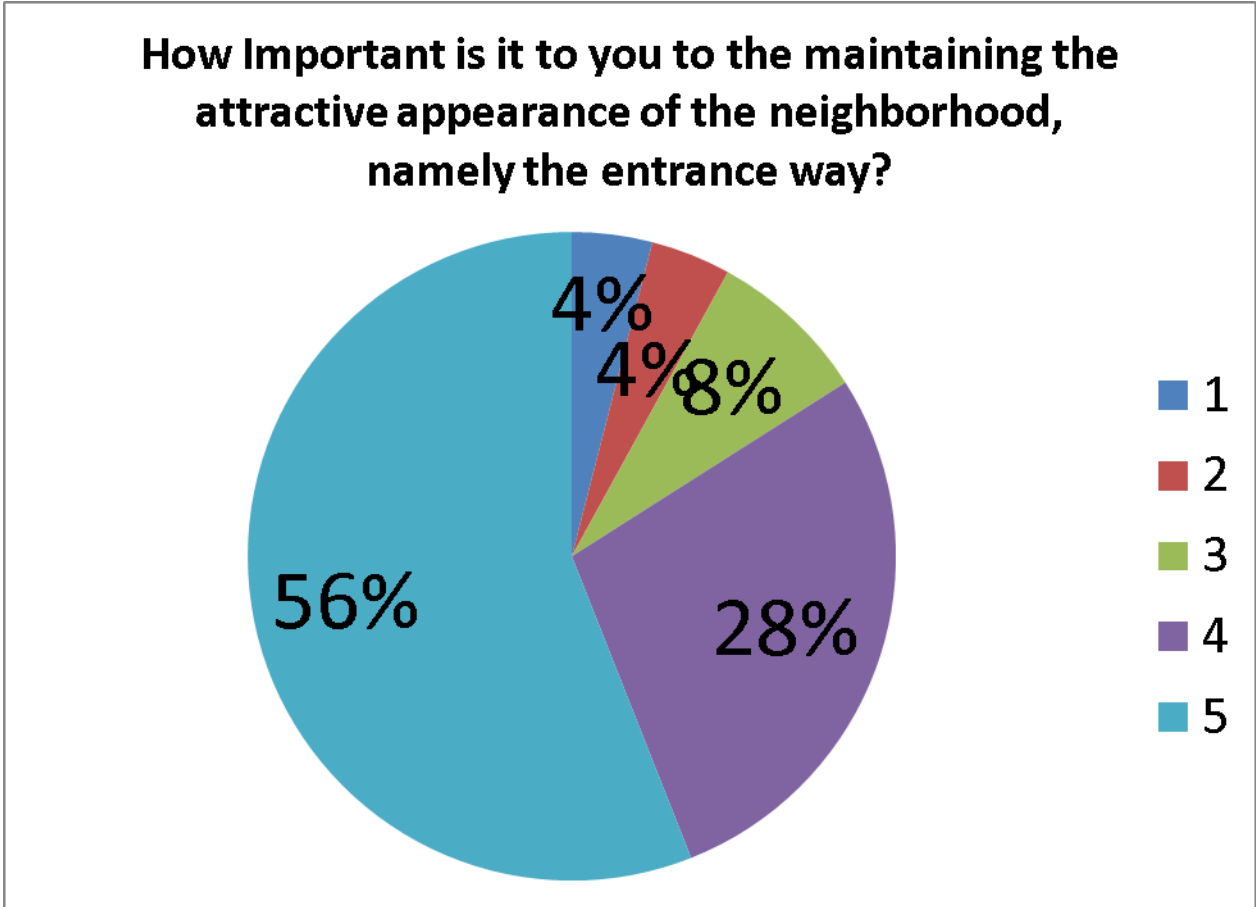
How important is safety to you (speeding cars, crime, etc) in our Community?

0%	4%	0%	12%	84%
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>



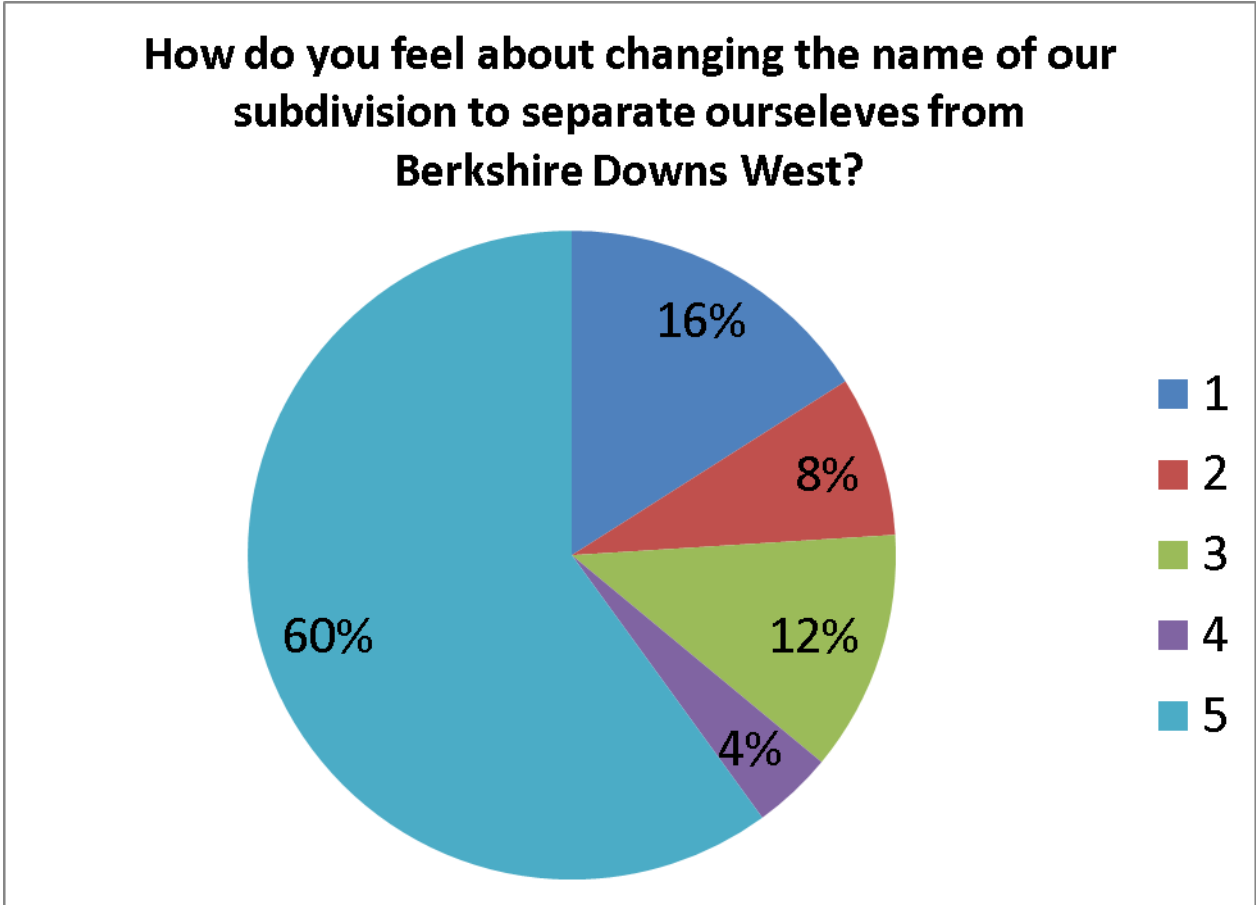
How important is it to you to maintaining the attractive appearance of the neighborhood, namely the entrance way?

4%	4%	8%	28%	56%
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>



How do you feel about changing the name of our subdivision to separate ourselves from Berkshire Downs West?

16%	8%	12%	4%	60%
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>



## Analysis of Survey Data

By comparing the highest possible score to the actual score in each category we can measure the amount of support on each question. Then assign a percentage number for that question. This indicates how important these questions are to the people who took the survey.

<b>What is your level of support for a neighborhood organization committee?</b>	<b>79.20%</b>
<b>How interested are you in becoming involved with your neighborhood?</b>	<b>76.00%</b>
<b>How interested are you in a neighborhood directory with your neighbors contact information in case of an emergency?</b>	<b>73.60%</b>
<b>How important is safety to you (speeding cars, crime, etc) in our Community?</b>	<b>95.20%</b>
<b>How important is it to you to maintaining the attractive appearance of the neighborhood, namely the entrance way?</b>	<b>85.90%</b>
<b>How do you feel about changing the name of our subdivision to separate ourselves from Berkshire Downs West?</b>	<b>76.80%</b>

<b><u>Comments</u></b>	<b><u>Replies</u></b>
<p>The sign at entrance is important but should wait until construction is finished on perry creek. The directory sounds nice, but i don't really want everyone having my info. Thank you to everyone who has had a part in our neighborhood activities thus far!!!!</p>	<p><i>The Sign Entrance should wait till construction Ends. For a couple of reasons 1) this helps reserve a space for a sign and 2) once we know the layout of the intersection we can discuss the size and style of the sign. However discussion about the reason for the name change should continue. It would take at least a 51% majority to change the sign name. It should be noted that all of our addresses would stay the same.</i></p>
<p>I think it's a great idea to change our neighborhood name. I am also concerned with the amount of rentals. I would like to have something in place to make sure the properties stay neat and kept up. both my neighbors are leaving and i am worried what will happen. the family on my left has been doing a lot of improvements and it looks great. but the family on my right foreclosed and the house is falling apart. if we had some kind of organization in place it would attract buyers who also wanted to keep there properties neat and clean. thanks. please let me know if you need any help. susan c. 872-****</p>	<p><i>It is extremely important to all of us to maintain our property values. No one wants to sell their homes for less than they are worth. Our present name association with Berkshire Downs West has lowered our property values because of the Section 8 housing and crime in the area. Statistically our subdivision's crime rate is low, however this is partially because some of the crimes have not been reported to the authorities. Realtors and insurance companies monitor these statistics to protect their own interests not ours. Foreclosures, low property values and low cost rentals invite trouble for desperate owners trying to sell or rent their declining investments.</i></p>

<p>While I think all of these things are important, seems like when there is a need for people to pull together, not many participate {annexation postcards}. Not many wanted to participate in the neighborhood committee until they thought someone was going to tell them to do something they did not want to do such as keeping trash picked up or maintaining their yard. Everyone needs to do their fair share, as we all reap the benefits!</p>	<p><i>It is important to care for our properties and maintain a pleasing atmosphere for their fellow residents and community appeal. However we have no right as a committee, organization or group to dictate how someone else tends for their property. These situations should either be dealt with directly with your neighbors. (person to person) or if state or county violations are broken a person can anonymously call the appropriate authorities and register a complaint.</i></p>
<p>We could not become involved in an organization committee because we have sold our house and are moving. After having our house on the market for 9 months, we especially feel that it is important that the name be changed because we found out that many realtors refused to show our home just because of the name "Berkshire Downs" and it's association with the other neighborhood. It also had a huge impact on our property value as well. Thanks so very much for everyone who has "risen up" to make a difference in our neighborhood; one that we have lived in for 20 years!! God bless you all!</p>	<p><i>A Well written testament and a very good point! This is an excellent example of why a name change is vital to assist us in preserving our property values.</i></p>

<p>In my opinion, if we can somehow get everyone in our neighborhood to fully understand that these problems are ALL of our problems -- and the solutions would benefit ALL of us -- no one would object. I think that simple fear is holding some people back. Fear that they will be TOLD what to do and forced to do those things. That is NOT what the community committee is about. Every group needs leadership to accomplish anything -- but this same group needs the input and suggestions of everyone involved -- namely, all of our neighbors. Each and every one of our neighbors need to be assured that their opinions, suggestions, etc. -- are as important as everyone else's opinion. Anyway, that's my 2 cents. :-) Linda D. &lt;&gt;&lt;</p>	<p><i>Well written comments and I strongly encourage constructive criticism as well as productive input. We as a group are here for everyone who lives here. If you write we will respond. If you are struggling we will try to help you with our limited but hopefully growing resources. We don't have all the answers and we are not professional organizers, but we do have a desire to protect and secure our investments as well as the well being of the community.</i></p>
<p>Are we talking about instituting homeowners' fees? Unless very modest or no fees at all, our interest would drop.</p>	<p><i>We will never charge anyone fees! We may occasionally ask for donations for perhaps plants, shrubs, picnics, events, or anything that would benefit the community as a whole. Or help a neighbor in need.</i></p>

<p>Hi Mat, Good luck with this survey. Hope you get a good response. As you know, I am concerned that the concern with the appearance will spread from the entrance to your or my front yard. If the city comes around again to annex I'll be back! Chris</p>	<p><i>No worry here, It is not the intention of this group to ever dictate how someone tends for their yards. We all need to be better communicators with our neighbors and if someone is unable to tend their yards we can assist in helping them with our presently limited resources.</i></p>
<p>The creek needs cleaning up. It is causing land flooding and stagnant water. Since the construction on Capital Blvd. at the car lot, the creek collected the debri and sand from their landscaing and washed down to our area. Anyone know who we can contact to help with this. I tried the county and they said the creek was not in the county jurisdiction?</p>	<p><i>This is something we may be able to assist with. Currently I do not know who to contact directly. But it is something that concerns us all especially when a hurricane comes this way! I would suggest taking a lot of pictures before and after big storms to illustrate destruction and accumulations of debri. Please feel free to contact me and we can discuss it further.</i></p>
<p>I would not want my information published to everyone. Maybe a directory would be good for if only published to those we choose ourselves.</p>	<p><i>Point noted. We all have a right to our privacy. Any directory we create would be voluntary. We also want to ensure that the only people that have access to the list are people that are on the list. It would be mainly for resource purposes in case of an emergency or community issue.</i></p>

<p>Last year's picnic was wonderful! Speding cars are REALLY out of control-! Hope we can find a solution-</p>	<p><i>Anytime that you can bring an entire community together in a positive atmosphere is a blessing. Hopefully there will be another event this year! Speeders are a problem the signs were installed because a few of the committee members asserted the need to the State. And because of their insistent pleads these signs were delivered. I think it has made some difference. But we are still thinking of other ideas that will be shared in the future.</i></p>
<p>Will fight any HMO Group!!</p>	<p><i>I think you mean HOA. No worry. This committee is solely for the residents. Too many people are opposed to a Home Owners Association. Just think no fees, no one telling you what do or how to keep your property. Just concerned neighbors trying to preserve our property values and sustain a secure future for our community.</i></p>
<p>New Subdivision Name suggestions: Shady Acres, Hidden Pines, Whispering Pines, Whispering Winds, Hidden Acres, Piny Creek, Whispering Creek, Trickel Creek, Stone Creek,Hidden Creek</p>	<p><i>When the name selection request is initiated. I would like to see what other names people suggest. The whole process would need to be open and transparent. We still need to clarify the reasons of the name change. We have a lot of data to support the facts. We just need to organize and present it. Once we have the approval of over half the community then we can discuss names.</i></p>

## **Conclusion**

The overall approval for a committee to address the needs of our community is high among the participants of the survey. The data represented in this survey demonstrates that there is enough support in the neighborhood to support a neighborhood organization. It also shows that there is high level of concern about safety and security in the neighborhood. The name change of the subdivision needs further discussion and no decision can be made without the consent of the majority of residents in our community. Based on the comments some residents are worried that this group would mutate into a Homeowners Association. Which never has been or will be the intention of this committee. I would like to thank everyone who has helped in the past and as we proceed to move forward encourage residents to voice their ideas and opinions while participating in neighborhood enhancement opportunities.

Thank you for your time and interests and we look forward to hearing from you all very soon.

Mat Trickel

Berkshire Downs Organization