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Import

Virginia LISC wants input on how to revitalize Petersburg

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PETERSBURG — *The people at Virginia Local Initiatives Support Corp. want to know what city residents would like to see for the future. The organization will hold its first of three announced meetings at 5:30 tonight at Petersburg High School.*

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Published: Wednesday, October 25, 2006 3:00 AM EDT

PETERSBURG — The people at Virginia Local Initiatives Support Corp. want to know what city residents would like to see for the future. The organization will hold its first of three announced meetings at 5:30 tonight at Petersburg High School.

"We're hoping to see about 350 people come out to the meeting," said Veronica Jemmott, community partnership manager for Virginia LISC. "LISC has been around for 25 years now, and we've been in Richmond for the past 15 years. ... We were known as Richmond LISC, but last may we decided to branch out and work in several other cities."

Jemmott said that the corporation's priority over the next several years will be to develop a comprehensive community planning program. The ultimate goal of those programs will be to revitalize neighborhoods in the city.

"To revitalize the neighborhoods, though, we need to know what the residents' priorities are and what they'd like to see in their neighborhoods," Jemmott said. To find out just what people want Jemmott said that LISC will hold meetings, beginning with the one tonight, followed by meetings in January and April 2007.

"It's important for all sorts of people to come out too," Jemmott said. "We want to see affluent people and poor people and people that own businesses and people that might have connections to Fort Lee."

Jemmott explained that it is important for as many people as possible to come out to the meeting to represent the community as a whole.

"Our saying for this program is, 'Your voice — your future,'" Jemmott said. "So it's very meaningful to have that variety of people to come out."

Jemmott said that after the vision has been developed into a concise plan, LISC will partner with a Community Development Corp. to help build and revitalize the community and bring the vision to life.

Transportation will be provided to the meeting from locations throughout the city with city or church vans leaving at 5 p.m. only.

- F.M. Wiggins may be reached at 732-3456.

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