

# 2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

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## TEAMS AND INITIATIVES

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### TENNESSEE RECEIVERSHIP GROUP

- NPI completed the first ever court supervised partial abatement receivership in 2020, taking a hoarder house at 1428 Estate from blight to bright! It is now a beautiful, owner occupied home.

### KLONDIKE / SMOKEY CITY

- Working with our partner Klondike-Smokey City CDC, NPI helped save a longtime homeowner from having his house demolished. He now lives in a fully restored home!

### STRATEGIC CODE ENFORCEMENT MANAGEMENT ACADEMY

- The 4th annual Strategic Code Enforcement Academy (SCEMA) went virtual and had a record participation rate: 5 cities were represented for 2 days in a row with great content in high demand. The SCEMA seminars were launched this fall with the first session attracting almost 200 participants from across the US.

### ZOOM TRAINING AND SUPPORT

- NPI volunteers assisted the Frayser Exchange Club to move fully online with their long standing weekly meetings after several months of cancelled meetings due to the pandemic.

### BLIGHT ELIMINATION STEERING TEAM

- The Blight Elimination Steering Team turns 5 years old in 2021.
- The focus of BEST has moved from policy change (many core items have been accomplished) to practical problem solving and applying new policies for impact. The four committees - Code Enforcement, Community Engagement, Data, and Reclaim/Reuse have endured and continue to collaboratively foster and implement fresh ideas.

### POLICY BRIEFINGS

- We had several great policy briefings in 2020 - two in person (Andre Perry and Dominic Moulden) and two virtual (Tawanna Black and Susan Cooper).

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# PARTNERSHIPS

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- NPI coordinated input to the planning and zoning process to prevent several uses that were broadly opposed by local neighborhood groups.
- NPI proposed changes to the Unified Development Code, which will make community meetings a more meaningful part of the formal approval process.
- Through contacts in the community, NPI identified a 40 plus year homeowner in Whitehaven who lost her house in tax sale and facilitated her re-purchase of the property from a tax sale speculator.
- In partnership with United Housing, Inc., the Rental Rehab Loan Fund was launched and the first loans were made to provide flexible, low cost financing to several landlords committed to providing decent affordable housing.
- NPI had the biggest screening of the entire Indie Memphis Film Festival in 2019, which led to many opportunities to use our incredible library of video content in 2020, and to build on it with funding from the City for the 2020 Housing Summit.
- Our Decatur Street Tree Garden (near JW Williams Street) was certified by the state as an arboretum. Additionally, NPI started what will be a second arboretum in Klondike Smokey City on Bellevue north of Jackson.
- NPI helped the City and County to spend over \$2 million in CARES Act funding to assist 1,155 households to prevent being evicted in a unique partnership with the University of Memphis Legal Clinic and Memphis Area Legal Services.
- We helped form and launch Northside Renaissance, Inc., a nonprofit committed to revitalizing the 300,000 square foot North Side High School building in Klondike.

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# ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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- NPI turned 10 years old on December 1, 2020.
- Operationally, NPI shifted to almost 100% virtual payments and accounting, and to virtual offices. Not only did we keep everything moving, but we added new programs and expanded some existing programs.
- Many team members commented on the growing strength and diversity of the NPI team, now including lawyers, planners, community organizers, and policy people. We all feel like we are part of something special: a talented, flexible and nimble interdisciplinary team that works on addressing root causes, not band aid solutions. We also work to make connections in a creative way to impact policy.
- We continued a robust social media presence using "NPIMemphis" across all platforms (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter).