

Project Narrative – anc1D 2008 Small Grants **anc1D** mount pleasant, dc

Title: In 15 words or less, give a title that describes the project's main beneficial result.

Oaklawn Terrace BA forms a Security Work Group to Assure Safety for its Residents

Narrative: 500 words or less, all on this page. Label paragraphs - A: Group. B: Project. C: Benefits. D: Leverage.

A: Group. Unincorporated Oaklawn Terrace Building Association
3620 16th Street NW, Washington DC 20010

B: Project.

Form the Oaklawn Terrace Building Association Work Group on Security.

We ask ourselves, are the new faces new tenants or strangers who have gained access to the building? We may want to create a roster and a network of contacts so that by using the intercom, security keys, floor captains, etc., we can assure that residents are safe and strangers are kept out or the police is alerted.

Of 5 outside doors, 3 of these are emergency exits only, but often are left ajar or broken overnight. Only 2 (front and back) are intended entrances. Some of the problems are physical: broken locks, lack of magnetic devices, and battery rather than wired systems. But some of us observe most of the multiple security breaches are because the residents do not practice good security habits. We hope to address this problem by corresponding with the other residents on how we can work together to create a more secure building. We hope to collaborate with other building associations that have dealt with similar internal problems, or are facing similar problems. Occasionally we may need to pay for translation services for written materials and meetings, or pay a small honorarium for a guest to come and talk with us. We may also need to develop our own materials.

Similar to problems that were experienced in the Woodner (our next door neighbor), we often do not know the details of crimes as they occur, and what steps either management or the police took. We will want to hold meetings where we interact with both management and the police, so that we are clear about how to make calls and follow-up.

C: Benefits.

We have 250 or more residents, many with extended generational families who spend time here. Many of our residents are Latino and not acquainted with all City Services and their rights as residents. Some of our residents are disabled or elderly would benefit from meetings held at home where they could interact with representatives from city programs. On many issues, we want to be in communication with each other, and if necessary hire someone to help inform us or conduct research, and then hold meetings to keep everyone informed.

D: Leverage.

We hope to develop Security Plans and innovations with management and Fire and Emergency services that could be adopted by other buildings. We will work with PSA 301 and help that group establish solid grass-roots engagement. There are a large number of talented, generous and civic minded people in the building who could work with other groups in Mount Pleasant to help tackle serious issues affecting us all. By combining our efforts with other Building Associations, we could increase participation and productive change.