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For Immediate Release

Hamilton Community Health Network’s Illuminating Community Change Meeting to discuss Crime and Violence along the Pierson Road Corridor

FLINT, MICH. – Hamilton Community Health Network (HCHN) and Illuminating Community Change (IC2) Project’s community partner, the North Flint Neighborhood Action Council (NF NAC) will host a virtual community-led discussion Thursday, Nov. 19th on convenience and liquor stores in north Flint. Currently, residents and business owners are concerned about the amount of crime and violence that is happening along the Pierson Road Corridor. Many see a correlation between the presence of convenience/liquor stores and the violent crime that is often taking place at these places of business, namely, sales of illegal drugs, weapons, and stolen goods. According to residents in the target area, business related problems can be attributed to:

- 1) owners who are seen as not caring about public safety;
- 2) non-residents and interlopers that frequent the businesses; and
- 3) the lack of code/ordinance enforcement at these businesses.

“We recognize that a community is only as strong as the relationships between businesses and its residents,” explains NF NAC president, Geri Clark. “We hope to strengthen those bonds and bring more businesses and residents into this community by providing a safe place to live and do business.”

Over the past year, The NF NAC and IC2 community members have met and discussed the issues and crimes associated with convenience/liquor stores and gas stations as gathering places for customers who can be both victims and perpetrators. As a result, the NF NAC has created the Pierson Road Business Corridor Convening group to focus on improving the relationship between business owners and area residents. More details on this group will be presented during the forum.

The public, residents, block clubs and neighborhood associations are invited to attend the free North Flint Safety Forum on Thursday, November 19th from 5 – 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Residents planning to attend the safety forum are asked to register through Eventbrite:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/working-together-for-a-safer-flint-n-flint-ic2-community-safety-forum-tickets-127030079387>

More information on IC2 may be found on www.hamiltonchn.org.



About Illuminating Community Change (IC2)

HCHN received the Community-Based Crime Reduction Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance in 2017. The grant has created the IC2 safety project bringing many community organizations in north Flint together to stimulate community members to be the change and spread the movement.

About Hamilton Community Health Network

Hamilton Community Health Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing comprehensive, quality, community-oriented health care for the underserved throughout Genesee, Lapeer County and surrounding areas. The organization is part of a national network of primary care centers (Section 330E) aimed at improving health services for inner-city populations. These centers provide comprehensive care to patients regardless of their ability to pay. For more information, visit hamiltonchn.org.

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