Volker Neighborhood Council Strategic Plan

(Including wording changes from 9/19/09 VNC meeting)

In accordance with the Volker Neighborhood Charter and Mission Statement, the current Strategic Plan is as follows:

**Short Term Actions (2 years)**

1. Request help from the City of Kansas City’s Planning and Development Department to assist the VNC in developing a Residential Master Plan for the neighborhoods adjacent to the Volker Campus of UMKC, as a companion document to UMKC’s master plan. The base data for this master plan would identify current zoning, impacts of the City’s new Zoning and Development Code, parking standards and regulations, sign regulations and projects on the current 5 year Capital Improvements Plan that impact these residential areas. The master plan will also provide a property ownership map.

   The master plan will address future plans for mixed use development at commercial nodes, commercial land use and residential land use for both single family and multi family. The plan will address traffic and parking issues and identify solutions for encroachment into neighborhoods from campus users (including programmatic solutions such as permitting, as well as physical or capital improvements). The plan will identify “hot zones”, where overlap of uses has traditionally caused friction between neighbors and UMKC (such as maintenance, parking, use of buildings, etc.) and develop a menu of solutions to be used by UMKC, it’s property managers, tenants, neighbors, the City, etc.

2. **Develop an Investment and Operations Plan.** (modeled on a business plan) to guide the Council on UMKC’s property acquisition, investment and management strategy. This plan will address the development of a “Good Neighbor” standard, tenant lease requirements (regarding upkeep, subletting, vacancy, bulky item pick up, etc.) and property maintenance standards. This plan should specifically address the issues outlined in Rockhill Crest’s strategic Plan, since 74% of Curator and Trustee-owned property off campus is in the Rockhill Crest neighborhood. The plan should also address developing a liaison process with Cohen Esrey or UMKC to find out lease dates and other information that may help the neighborhood to coordinate with tenants.

3. **Improve the relationship with Campus Security.** Identify a regular meeting between Rochill Crest and Campus Security. Develop a joint program to encourage student and neighborhood safety.
4. **Create a “Students as Good Neighbors” program** to encourage a connection between students who may only live in areas a short time to feel like part of a neighborhood and to be good stewards of that neighborhood’s assets. Include incentives and joint events between neighbors and students.

5. **Improve UMKC’s green practices** and find creative ways to encourage environmentally friendly policies and actions in the areas of food service, recycling, property maintenance, power grass trimming and blowing, construction and communications. Coordinate plans between on-campus and off-campus residents and get student tenants excited about the possibilities, perhaps providing special week-end work days for community service credit.

6. **Revisit UMKC’s signage policy** and determine if more coordination needs to occur.

7. **Reinforce and continue to play a role in the community collaboration efforts in midtown**, including the proposed Green Zone, Troost BRT, Brush Creek Partners, Southtown Council and others.

8. **Finalize the Executive Order** (covenant between UMKC and the Volker Neighborhood Council) so parties can sign.

**Medium Term Actions (2 – 5 years)**

1. **Encourage blight removal in the neighborhoods.** Develop a communication program with UMKC (or it’s Trustees or property managers) and the city to act in a timely and appropriate manner.

2. **Collaborate with UMKC to develop transportation plan** with student input related to satellite parking, reduction of carbon emissions, automobile-sharing, discounted Bus Rapid Transit or bus passes.

3. **Include the VNC from the earliest point in the planning/design of the upcoming Oak West parking facility** and any other building projects.

**Long Term Actions (5 years or longer)**

1. **Implement the mixed use development node on Troost including Rockhill Crest neighborhood**, as per the UMKC master plan.