University of Utah

To: Dan Strong
From: Jonah D. Hadlock
Date: September 28th, 2017
Re: Rose Park - Families in Poverty

Comments: In response to your request to collect demographic information of the Rose Park Community, I have chosen to focus on families living in poverty within the area. There are many families living in poverty and it is necessary to include them more fully in community gatherings as they are the more vulnerable citizens in the neighborhood. I have gathered the most recent data (from 2015) on families in poverty and the percent increase per block group since 2000 and have some relevant conclusions.

As Rose Park as a whole has grown since 2000, poverty rates have also increased: the percentage of families living in poverty in Rose park has risen 236.42%! Most of this growth has occurred in the midwestern area from 1000 N to W Sunset Drive and Buccaneer Drive to N Redwood Road; this particular area itself has increased family poverty rates over 200%, so it is an area of concern.

In all of Rose Park, as of 2015, about 1 in 5 families are living in poverty. This rate is quite high and should be a focus of community planning and discussions. I recommend that to increase this population’s attendance in community council discussions, a focus group should be conducted with a provided free meal and temporary childcare as motivation to actively participate. This focus group would better enable the community council to know more about the real needs and ideas of those families living in poverty and would help them feel welcome and significant. It is important to accommodate the vulnerable and underserved to include them in important meetings that may affect their lifestyles; doing these simple things could reduce the rates of poverty because community members work together to help everyone live comfortably.