

City of New Kensington – A Blueprint for Success – The Circle

Living in New Kensington for all of my thirteen and one half years, my experiences have formed both my good and bad opinions of the city. My good experiences come from those things that are within my control, unlike the bad, which I have no decision or choice in.

When you enter New Kensington, your first impression is dirty. Downtown looks like something I would picture in a slum. My first step would be to clean. Buildings need torn down, garbage needs picked up, and the streets need cleaned and landscaped. We need to find a way to bring business back to the city. When you drive through downtown, all you see is boarded up buildings. We need to find one new large business to be the center and this will be the start of other smaller businesses following. To attract new business we could offer them low interest loans or lower the property taxes.

The school district is another low point for the city. Because the houses and neighborhoods in the city keep going downhill, more people are moving and relocating outside of our city. Houses are tougher to sell, so owners decide to rent, and good tenants are hard to find. I know this because my mom has a house to rent and I see how hard it is to find someone you can trust to rent your house. This results in houses with low rents and low house values and this means that there is less money that will go to our schools. I guess it's like going down a hill on your bike and your brakes don't work.

I think that it is hard to find the answer. Our city is not like those places that get to build big new houses and have large yards. It's hard to get new people to come to a town that is always in the news for shootings. We need to "crack" down on crime and drugs. We have to be tough so that the dealers will find somewhere else to go, hopefully to jail.

Changing this trend our city is setting will not be easy. Maybe we haven't even reached the bottom yet. My plan is like building with blocks. The bottom has to be steady before you can build up. On the bottom, clean up the crime and drugs, clean up the dirt and buildings and see what kind of business you could get to come here. Then we can start to attract other people to our town. Our houses will go up in value. We will have more money to better our school system to attract more families to live here. This is the circle effect.