

Community Concerns and Desires: Analysis of Scio Street TIPS Initiative

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Analysis of Scio Street Project TIPS (2014)

Survey

On May 22, 2014, the TIPS (Trust, Information, Programs, and Services) initiative was implemented around Scio Street in Rochester, New York, both to show support for the neighborhood and to investigate community members' concerns and desires for their neighborhood. This report is designed to analyze the collected surveys and will discuss the various aspects of the neighborhood that the Scio Street community liked, the assessments the community made of their neighborhood, and the initiatives or activities the residents would like implemented in the neighborhood. Finally, this paper will provide anecdotes that the Scio Street community wishes to share with law enforcement and their fellow community members.

Methodology

The initiative used a survey of residents to obtain this information. The survey asked people to list their likes, concerns, and desires for things to be done within their neighborhood. The survey asked community members how much they liked living in their area, how long they have lived there, and how likely they were to be living in the area in the future. The survey then asked the respondents if they had anything specific to tell the police, and, finally, if they had anything to share with their fellow community members.

Groups of three or four volunteers were sent out to administer the survey to preselected streets in the neighborhood during a community event. Each group had at least one law enforcement officer with them. These groups were instructed to travel down one side of the street and then return on the other side, knocking on every door. When residents answered, the volunteers were to read a readymade script to the participant and then conduct the survey. Only those houses where adult residents responded and agreed to take the survey are included in the sample.

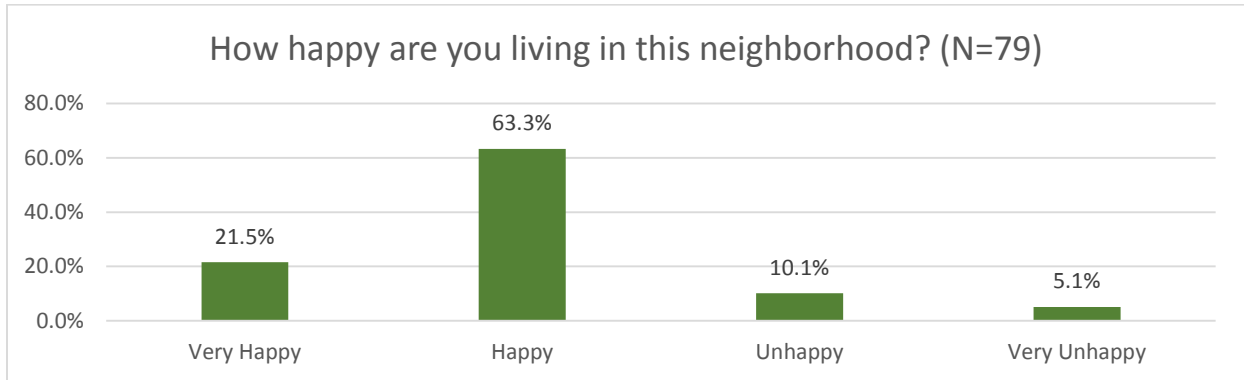
Because of this door-by-door sampling method, the resulting sample is not a random sample of the Scio Street community. Despite this, the resulting analysis should give valuable insight into the various issues within the community.

Data

A number of groups surveyed 16 streets in the Scio Street community. Due to the small number of surveys collected on each street, it is difficult to accurately compare between them. Therefore, the surveys collected will be pooled together for analysis.

This group will be referred to as 'the Scio Street community.' A total of 79 surveys were collected from the neighborhood.

Residents were asked to indicate how happy they were living in the Scio Street neighborhood. A majority of people (84.8%) said that they were either happy or very happy. Approximately 15% of people said that they were either unhappy or very unhappy living in the neighborhood.

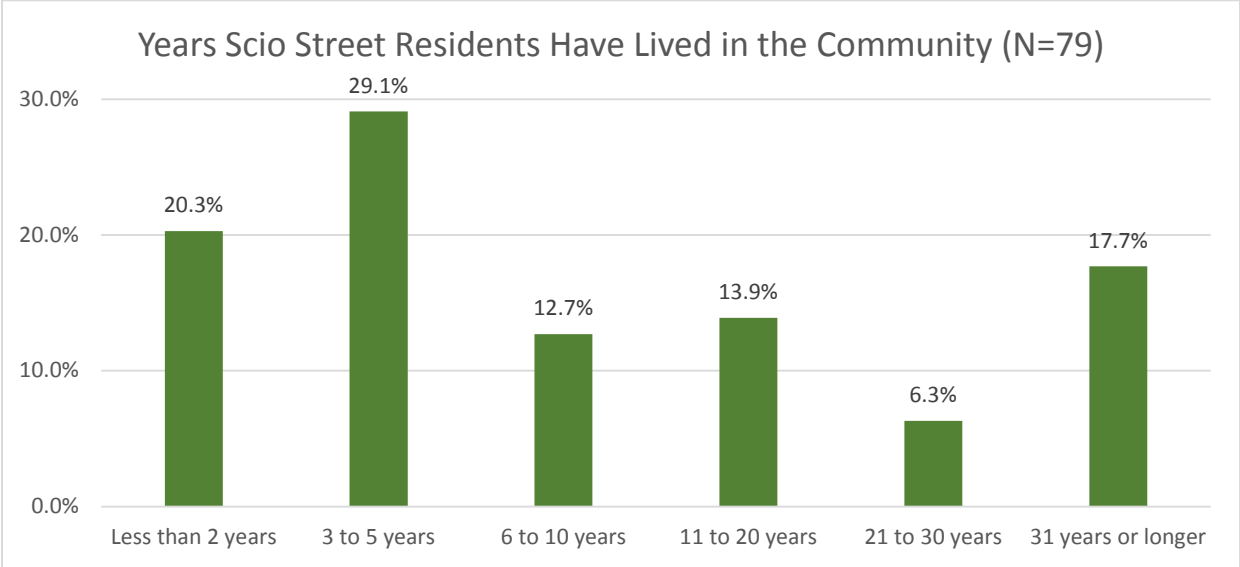


A portion of the survey asked residents to list the things that they liked most about their community. This was open-ended. These values were most likely the main contributors to why people reported being happy or very happy living in the Scio Street community. Over a third (37.5%) of respondents reported that they felt the people and community were “nice.” Many (22.2%) respondents reported that it was quiet and peaceful most of the time, and 12.5% of respondents mentioned that they liked the park/playground or recreation center in the area. The list below shows the many other neighborhood features people liked.

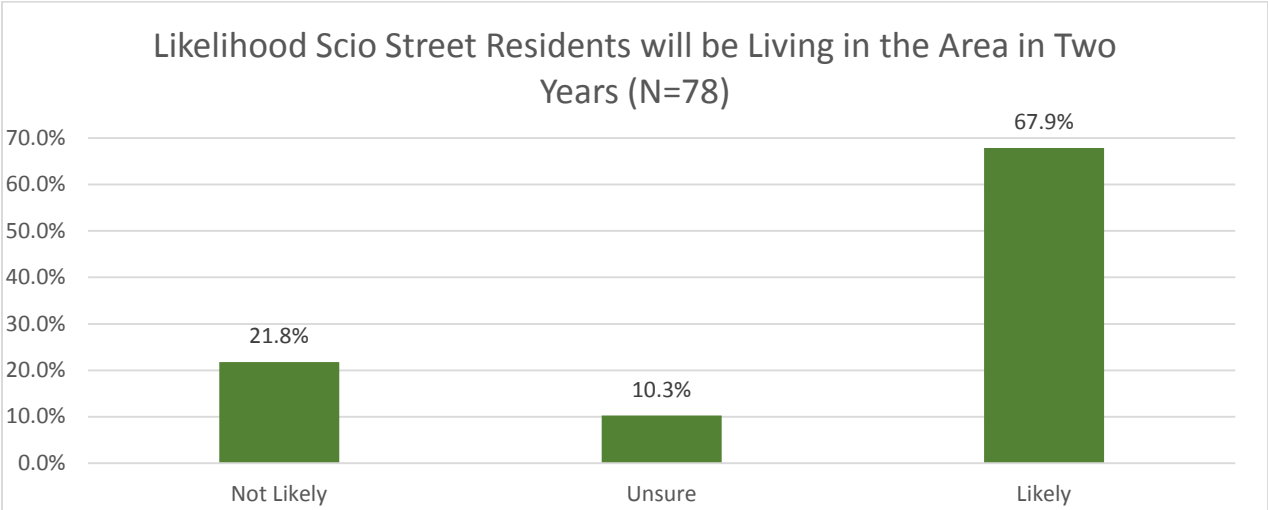
Scio Street Community Values

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Nice People/Community	27	37.5
	Quiet/Peaceful Most of the Time	16	22.2
	Park/Playground/Rec Center	9	12.5
	Location	4	5.6
	Community Based Programs	3	4.2
	Safe	3	4.2
	Affordable	2	2.8
	Neighborhood Watch	2	2.8
	Culture Diversity	1	1.4
	Family/Friends	1	1.4
	Lived There a Long Time	1	1.4
	Nature (Trees, etc.)	1	1.4
	Church(es)	1	1.4
	Kids	1	1.4
	Total	72	100.0
Missing	-99.00	7	
Total		79	

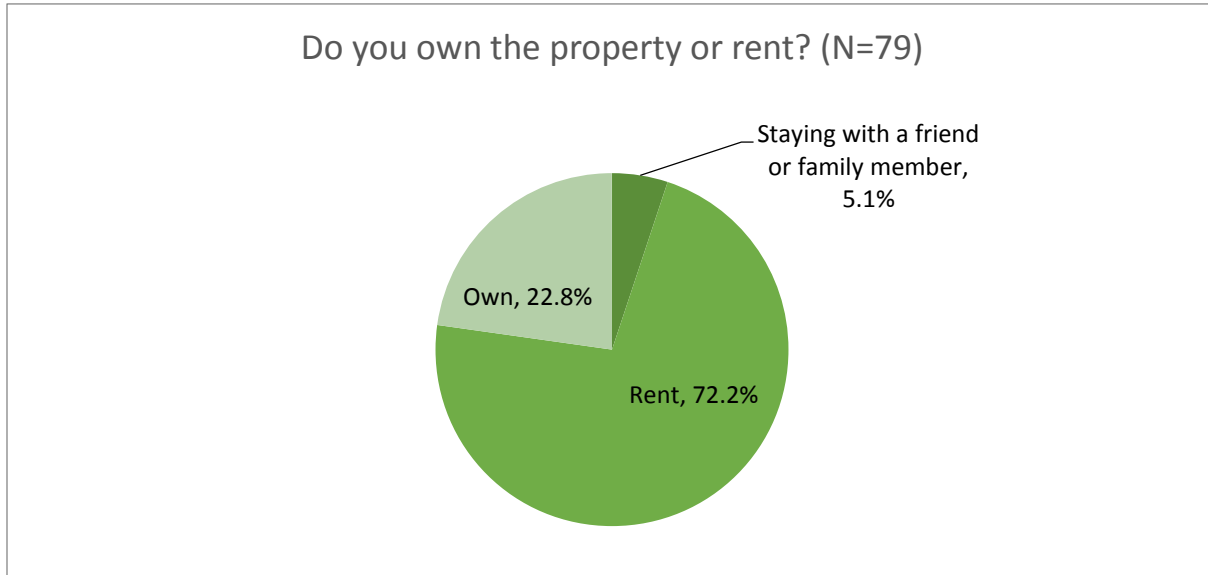
Residents were asked to list how long they have been living in the Scio Street community. For the purpose of this analysis, we grouped the responses into six categories. In the Scio Street community, there is a large distribution of residency lengths, with no one group in particular standing out on its own. However, overall, approximately 50% of the residents who responded reported living in the area less than 5 years.



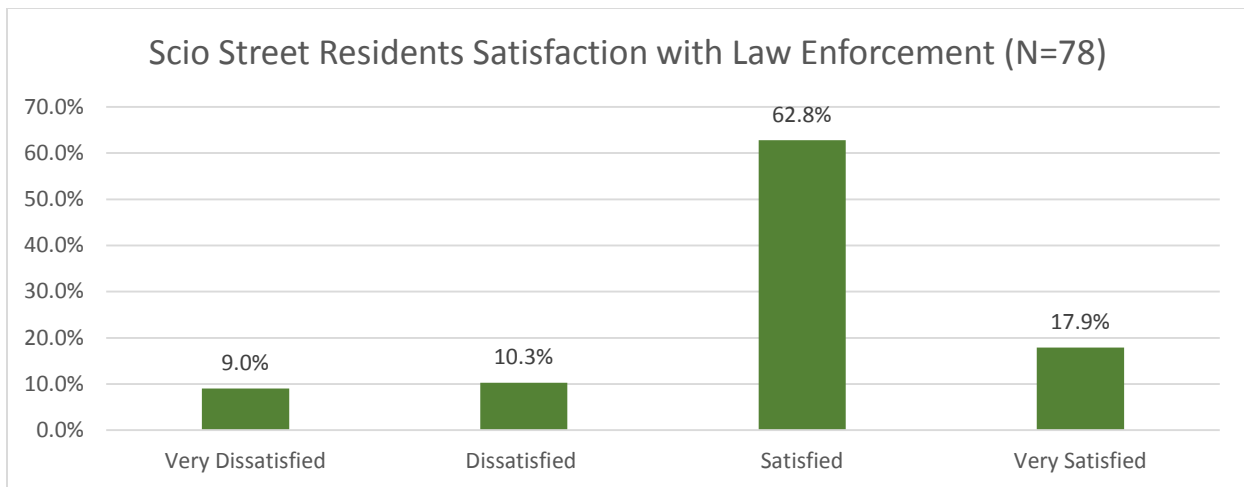
Even though approximately 50% of residents moved to the area in the last 5 years, we can see from the graph below that 67.9% of respondents reported that they were likely to be living in the area in two-years-time. Still, 21.8% of people reported that it was not likely that they would be living in the area in two years. It would be interesting to know the reasons why those respondents felt they were not likely to stay in the area.



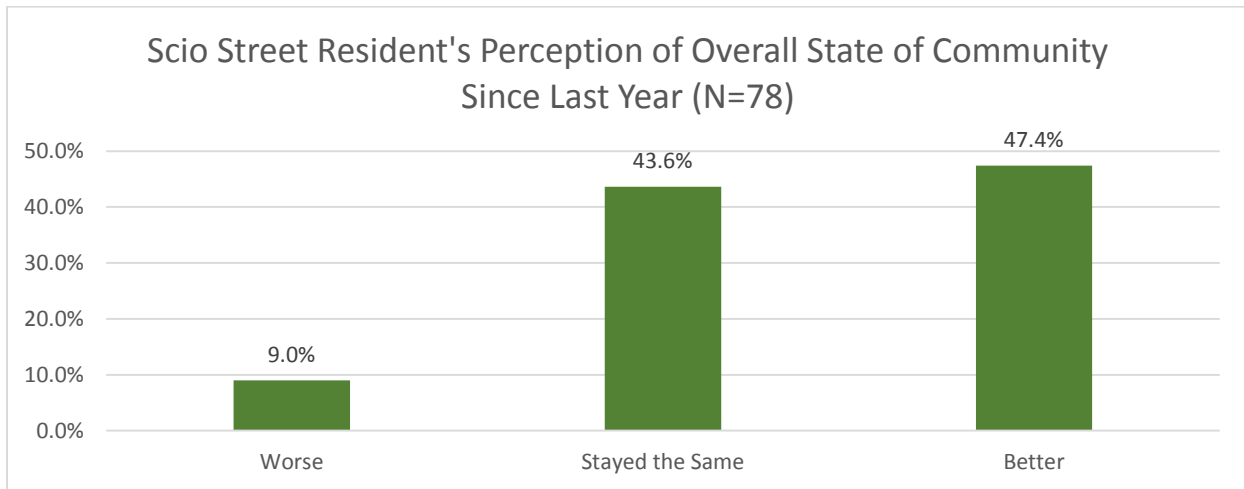
Residents were asked if they owned or rented the property that they were living in. A majority (72.2%) of respondents reported that they were renting. Most of the rest (22.8%) owned their property, and a small number of respondents (5.1%) reported that they were staying with a friend or a family member.



Residents were asked how satisfied they were with law enforcement in the Scio Street area. They were able to choose from the choices shown in the chart below. A majority (62.8%) of respondents reported being satisfied with law enforcement in the area, and 17.9% even said that they were very satisfied. That being said, 19.3% of respondents reported being dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the law enforcement services in their neighborhood. Though the survey did not ask, it would be interested to see why people were either satisfied or dissatisfied.



Residents were also asked if the community has gotten better, stayed the same, or gotten worse in the last year. Almost everyone (91%) reported that the community either stayed the same or got better since last year.



Residents were asked why they felt this way. Only 27 out of the 78 who responded to the previous question left a response as to why they felt this way. Of the people who felt that the neighborhood got worse, they indicated that drugs were continuing to be a problem. Of the people who felt that the neighborhood has gotten better, many mentioned that there were more “quality” people and that communication between residents was improving. Some also mentioned that there were more activities and community involvement.

Residents were asked to list their concerns for the community from greatest to least concerning. This was an open ended question, so for the purpose of this analysis, the responses were grouped into several categories. About a third (34.5%) of people who responded mentioned drugs as their greatest concern. Following that were speeding or traffic concerns (19.0%). The rest of the concerns are listed in the chart below.

Scio Street Community Greatest Concerns

		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Drugs	20	34.5
	Speeding/Traffic	11	19.0
	Violence	6	10.3
	Loitering	4	6.9
	General Crime	4	6.9
	Neighborhood Cleanliness	3	5.2
	Noise	2	3.4
	Lack of Police Presence	1	1.7
	Slow Police Response	1	1.7
	Safety	1	1.7
	Stray Animals	1	1.7
	Slumlords/Absentee Landlords	1	1.7
	Lack of Parental Supervision/General Parenting	1	1.7
	Lack of Youth Activities	1	1.7
	Outsiders	1	1.7
	Total	58	100.0
Missing	-99.00	21	
Total		79	

Any concerns residents had that were listed as the second or third most concerning are outlined in the following charts. Cleanliness, traffic, and violence remained high concerns.

Scio Street Community Second Greatest Concerns

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Neighborhood Cleanliness	5	18.5
	Speeding/Traffic	4	14.8
	Noise	3	11.1
	Drugs	2	7.4
	Loitering	2	7.4
	Violence	2	7.4
	Slumlords/Absentee Landlords	2	7.4
	General Crime	2	7.4
	Slow Police Response	1	3.7
	Prostitution	1	3.7
	Stray Animals	1	3.7
	Outsiders	1	3.7
	Poor Lighting	1	3.7
	Total	27	100.0
Missing	-99.00	52	
Total		79	

Scio Street Third Greatest Concerns

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Neighborhood Cleanliness	2	18.2
	Violence	2	18.2
	Stray Animals	2	18.2
	General Crime	2	18.2
	Drugs	1	9.1
	Lack of Youth Activities	1	9.1
	Outsiders	1	9.1
	Total	11	100.0
Missing	-99.00	68	
Total		79	

Lastly, the survey asked residents to list what they felt the people in the community could do to help the community be a nicer place to live. Of the 45 residents who responded to this question, 28.9% felt that people in the community should be more involved in things that go on in their community. Others mentioned cleaning up the area and reporting problems to police. Some people also mentioned that speed bumps should be installed to deter speeding in the area.

Requests from Scio Street Community

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Community/Resident Involvement	13	28.9
	Clean up Area	6	13.3
	Speed Bumps	6	13.3
	Report Problems to Police	6	13.3
	Better Police Presence	4	8.9
	Neighborhood Watch	2	4.4
	Drug Rehab	2	4.4
	Recreational Activities/Jobs for Youth	1	2.2
	Put Curfew in Place	1	2.2
	Neighborhood Meetings	1	2.2
	More Parental Involvement	1	2.2
	People more Respectful	1	2.2
	Talk to/Mentor Kids in Area	1	2.2
	Total	45	100.0
Missing	-99.00	34	
Total		79	

The next question asked respondents if they had anything specific to tell the police. Because this question was open-ended, it is difficult to accurately quantify these statements. However, these anecdotes can provide interesting insight into how the members of the Scio Street community think and feel about police, crime, community, and quality of life issues in their neighborhood.

With regard to specific statements for police, 25 of the 79 residents left a response. Of those, none reported specific crimes or criminal behaviors. A number of respondents felt that the police should have a more visible presence in the neighborhood and that police response times could be improved. There were also a number of respondents who mentioned the drug activity in the neighborhood and would like to see police in the area to try to decrease the problem.

Bivariate Analysis

Bivariate analysis is the analysis of the relationship between two variables. By using a Crosstab, it is possible to examine subsets of the population surveyed and the relationship between variables such as how long respondents have lived in the neighborhood, how happy respondents are within the neighborhood, if respondents own or rent, and if respondents believe they will be living in the area within two years. Several statistics were calculated (Pearson's correlation coefficient, chi squared tests, and a contingency coefficient) to determine the nature and significance of any observed relationships.

There were no significant relationships between how long residents had lived in the neighborhood and how happy they were. In other words, there was no evidence that the longer someone lived in the neighborhood, the more or less happy they were. Interestingly, there was also no relationship between how long residents had lived in the neighborhood and how likely they felt that they were to be living in the area in two years. Most residents, no matter how long they had lived there, felt they would still be living there in two years. There was no relationship between how happy residents were and how likely they felt they were to be living in the neighborhood in two years. Even among those who reported being unhappy or very unhappy, about half said they were likely to still be living in the neighborhood.

There was no relationship between residents' satisfaction with the police in their area and how likely they felt they were to be living in the neighborhood in two years. This means that resident's satisfaction with police had no statistically significant impact on their perceived likelihood to be living in the area. Finally, there was no relationship between resident's perception of how the neighborhood has changed over the past year and how happy they were living in the area. Even among those who felt the neighborhood had gotten worse over the past year, over half reported being happy living in the neighborhood.

There was a relationship showing that those who own their home were more likely to live in the neighborhood longer, compared to those who rent or are staying with friends or family. This is shown in the table below. However it is important to note that in the Scio Street community, about half of residents have lived in the area under 5 years, and a majority of the residents rent their homes.

	% of those who lived in the neighborhood...						Total
	Less than 2 Years	3 to 5 years	6 to 10 years	11 to 20 years	21 to 30 years	31 years or longer	
Staying with a friend or family member	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	21.4%	5.1%
Rent	93.8%	91.3%	80.0%	54.5%	60.0%	28.6%	72.2%
Own	6.3%	4.3%	20.0%	45.5%	40.0%	50.0%	22.8%

Chi Squared = 29.172 (10), $p < 0.1$; Contingency Coefficient = .519, $p < 0.1$

The next table shows that the happier residents felt living in the neighborhood, the more likely they were to be satisfied with the police. It is important to note that a majority of residents were satisfied with the police in their neighborhood. Even of those who were unhappy living in the neighborhood, many of them still reported being satisfied with the police.

		% of those who were...				Total
		Very Unhappy	Unhappy	Happy	Very Happy	
Satisfaction with the police	Very Dissatisfied	50.0%	25.0%	6.1%	0.0%	9.0%
	Dissatisfied	0.0%	0.0%	14.3%	5.9%	10.3%
	Satisfied	25.0%	75.0%	67.3%	52.9%	62.8%
	Very Satisfied	25.0%	0.0%	12.2%	41.2%	17.9%

Chi Squared = 23.153 (9), $p < 0.1$; Contingency Coefficient = .478, $p < 0.1$

Discussion and Conclusion

The vast majority of survey respondents living in the Scio Street Community were happy living in this area. Many mentioned that the people living there were nice and that the neighborhood was quiet and peaceful most of the time. Many people have lived in the area under 5 years. Some believe the community has gotten better over the past year because more “quality” people have moved in to the neighborhood. The majority of residents in this area are renting their homes, but most plan on still living in the neighborhood in two years’ time.

A high number of residents in the Scio Street Community were satisfied with law enforcement in the area. Even most of those who reported being unhappy living in the neighborhood said that they were satisfied with the police. Most residents felt that the neighborhood has stayed the same or gotten better over the past year. However, some residents were concerned about drugs and drug dealers in the neighborhood. Some mentioned concerns about traffic in the area. A very small amount of people mentioned concerns about violence in the neighborhood.

Residents requested that people who live in the area continue to be involved in the community if they are not already. They also mentioned that people should clean up the area. Some residents mentioned that they would like speed bumps to be installed to help with the speeding issues.

It would be helpful to know if there are community organizations that can or are willing to work with the residents to help them address some of the problems in their neighborhood. Additionally, we would like to know how law enforcement is targeting the area for prevention, deterrence, community relationship building, and social service efforts. More discussions would need to be had with Scio Street residents to understand the data from this survey more thoroughly. Overall, though, those surveyed in the Scio Street area community felt positively about their neighborhood and the changes it has experienced recently.