



## VOLUNTEERS GATHER IN FROG HOLLOW FOR STREET CLEAN UP

Monday, April 30, 2018

Close to a hundred volunteers gathered on Broad Street in Frog Hollow on Saturday, April 28 to take part in a neighborhood clean-up. The event was organized by Frog Hollow SAFE (Safety Alliance for Everyone).

Luke Bronin, Hartford's mayor, welcomed participants from all over the city. Participants included volunteers from:

- Hartford Youth Service Corps
- Hartford Fire Explorers
- Hartford Police Explorers
- Bulkeley High School
- Spanish language radio station La Mega 105. The morning DJ and five staff persons volunteered. (Mega also broadcast live segments at several points during the event.)
- The Trinity College hockey team
- Templo Fe - The Chosen Generation

The event was structured as a competition with prizes for winning teams. Points were given out based on the number of trash bags collected, social media posts and re-posts, photos of vacant lots, and use of the 311 phone app to report problems such as downed power cables and clogged drains. Winners received prizes donated by local businesses such as Raftery, Inc., merchants such as CVS and the Kitchen at Billings Forge, nonprofit organizations, and individuals. First prize went to the Hartford Fire Explorers, who reported an impressive number of social media re-posts. They received a trophy, medals, and gift certificates for Yard Goats tickets. Second and third place winning teams also received prizes.

Results of the clean up included 155 bags of trash and recycling, forty five 311 requests, 18 vacant lots reported, 87 social media posts and 85 shares.

The clean-up event ended with a celebratory barbeque hosted by Templo Fe church at the corner of Ward and Broad Streets.

This event is the first in a series of monthly neighborhood clean-up events scheduled throughout the summer. The next one will take place on Saturday, May 26.

SAFE is a recently formed coalition of partners working together to address blight and safety in the Frog Hollow Neighborhood. Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance (SINA), a partnership between the Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Hartford Hospital and Trinity College, is the organizer of SAFE, whose partners include Know Thy Neighbor, Vecinos Unidos, Templo Fe, the Faith Based Initiative, Mutual Housing Association of Greater Hartford and the Frog Hollow NRZ.

The principle guiding SAFE's work is that clean streets make the neighborhood more attractive for the people who live and work there, and less attractive for those who pursue illegal activities. The group hopes to promote neighborly connections and to inspire residents to take action to address problems throughout the neighborhood.

For more information please contact Melvyn Colon of SINA, [mcolon@sinainc.org](mailto:mcolon@sinainc.org), at 860 990 5533.



SINA is a partnership between Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Hartford Hospital and Trinity College.

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We came, we saw, we cleaned. Thank you to everyone who participated and congratulations to the Hartford Fire Department their explorers for bringing home the trophy. #froghollowSAFE #cleanSAFEstreets #cleanhartford

