

Appendix B: Interview Schedule

Interview/Focus Group Questions for Study on
Impact of Gentrification and Displacement on the
Different Communities in Chicago
(With a Particular Focus on Race and Ethnicity)

Loyola University Center for Urban Research and Learning
and the
City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations

Instructions to the interviewer are typed in *italics*¹

Please read the following paragraph to each interviewee so that we will have a common understanding of the research among those who we have interviewed:

There has been discussion among some community leaders about the impact of gentrification on Chicago's communities, such as low-income African-American and Hispanic communities. Certainly reinvestment in neighborhoods can bring vital resources to communities in terms of housing, business, school, and other tangible developments. However, there are also concerns by some about the displacement of current residents from communities when such reinvestment takes place.

Questions:

1. What are the community areas(s) in which you have most actively been involved and with which you are most familiar?
2. Have you seen any changes and/or new investment in these communities over the past five to ten years?
3. What kind of impacts have these changes or new investments had on the character of the community? on the quality of lives for community residents?
4. Some people have expressed concern that gentrification, particularly changes resulting from new housing development, has displaced low-income residents who have had to move out of the community. Has this been the case in communities with which you are familiar?

If no, how have existing residents benefited from this new investment?

If yes, who has been displaced? How extensive has the displacement been? Where have displaced individuals gone?

5. Thinking of different groups in Chicago, particularly African-Americans, Latinos, Asian-Americans, immigrants, women, gay/lesbian residents, do you think some groups have been affected more or less than others? If yes, what group(s)? If yes, how have they been affected differently?

¹ These same questions were used as questions to guide facilitators in the three focus groups completed for this research study.

6. Here is a list of some of the different kinds of the public and private investments that can be made in communities. Thinking of your experience and the issue of gentrification and displacement, what are the top three positive or negative investments or improvements in Chicago communities?

Show interviewee, the attached sheet with the questions and the list below:

- new market rate housing, condos?
- new businesses
- new schools
- new/expanded health care facilities
- new/expanded cultural facilities, e.g. museums, theaters
- new city buildings, e.g. police stations and libraries?
- new/improved parks
- new/expanded religious congregation facilities
- new/expanded youth facilities, gyms, nightclubs, movie theaters
- others?

7. Are you aware of any communities or smaller neighborhood areas where some reinvestment/gentrification has taken place, but where current residents have for the most part stayed in their homes and apartments?

8. In some communities where gentrification has taken place and has displaced families, hostility between old residents and new residents has been apparent. Has this happened in the communities with which you are familiar?

If YES,

How has it shown up?

Does this disappear after a while or does it remain for a longer period of time?

Is there anything that can be done to reduce this tension?

- 9A. *For those interviewees who have said that there have been negative impacts of reinvestment/gentrification:*

What kind of public or private policies or interventions could counteract the negative impacts gentrification in formerly low-income communities?

OR

- 9B. *For those interviewees who have said that there have been positive impacts of reinvestment/gentrification:*

Are there any additional kinds of public or private policies or interventions that could further improve the quality of life in low-income communities?

10. Do you have any additional thoughts on the general issues that we have been discussing?