

CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP

Innovation Audit Committee

7-21-08 Update

The primary charge of this committee is to scour the landscape of municipal innovations around the US to determine whether there are practices and approaches to city policies and programs from which Newton might benefit. Instead of looking for any and all possible innovations, the subcommittee has taken a “back burner” position, awaiting progress from the other subcommittees to see whether there are specific areas of innovation that might be particularly important.

To date, in part in response to issues that have arisen in other subcommittees, the subcommittee’s attention has focused on citywide performance management, monitoring, and reporting; citywide priority-setting processes; and capital and operating budgeting, including integrated budgeting, processes.

This committee has no expectation that it will be able to identify innovations that can simply be transported from some other place to Newton. Rather, the expectation is that elements of innovative practices might provide opportunities for Newton to improve upon current practice. No city in the country is so sufficiently like Newton that it can serve as a perfect model of innovation. Innovations in other places, however, may be adapted to Newton’s needs.

Several specific municipalities around the US have emerged as potential sources of innovative ideas. To date, the committee has started to investigate budgeting and management practices in several places, including Boulder, Ft. Collins, and Longmont, CO, as well as Santa Monica, CA., and others.

City	Population 2006	Media Age 2006	% African American 2006	% Asian 2006	% owner occupied housing 2006	Median house value 2006	Median family income 2006	Per capita income 2006
Boulder, CO	92,474	29.1	1.0	6.2	48.8	\$ 455,900	\$ 89,184	\$ 31,579
Longmont, CO	84,880	34.9	0.9	1.2	94.4	\$ 241,300	\$ 62,957	\$ 26,670
Ft. Collins	135,481	29.4	1.0	3.1	54.3	\$ 232,900	\$ 72,248	\$ 26,357
Santa Monica	88,244	40.7	4.6	10.6	30.3	\$ 1,000,000+	\$ 100,996	\$ 57,230
Newton	89,918	38.1	2.8	9.0	70.6	\$ 690,200	\$ 121,496	\$ 45,987

Submitted by:

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