

MEMO

To: Port Jervis Comprehensive Plan Committee

From: DET/RJM

Date: July 2018

Re: Online Community Survey via Survey Monkey

The following memo is a summary of the Port Jervis Community Survey. The survey was formatted by Courtney Strong, Inc. and had 132 survey participants.

➤ *Q1: In total, how long have you lived in Port Jervis?*

53.8% of responders lived in the City more than 25 years and 32.6% lived in the City less than 25 years. 13.6% did not live in the City but either owned business or real estate, or visit often.

➤ *Q2: How many people currently live in your household, including yourself?*

31% of responses had 2 people in a household, 25% had 4 people, 16% had 5 or more, 14% had 3, and 14% had 1. This means 45% had 2 or less people in a household and 55% had 3 or more people in a household.

➤ *Q3: Of the people currently living in your household, how many are under the age of 18?*

60% of responses had no one under 18 living in the household, 18% had 2, 13% had 1, and 9% had more than 3. Therefore, 40% of responders had 1 or more people under 18 living in the household.

➤ *Q4: What is your occupation (write in the box)? If retired, write "retired."*

20% of responders were retired, 6% self-employed, 6% administrative, 5% stay at home mom, 5% teacher, 5% retail, 4% FD, 4% nurse, 3% PD, 2% business owner, 2% laborer, 2% unemployed, 2% disabled, 1.5% nursing assistant, and 1.5% Accountant. The remaining 31% were unique occupations.

➤ *Q5: If currently employed, describe where you work in relation to your home:*

28% live within 5 miles from home, 26.5% work at home, 16% work more than 31 miles away, 15% work 6-20 miles away, 14.5% work 21-30 miles away. *Note: All 132 participants answered this question, including those who stated they were "retired."*

- Q6: *If currently employed, how do you commute to work?*

78% of participants selected private vehicle to commute to work, 17.5% selected work from home. 2 people selected walk to work, 1 person selected uses the bus, 1 person selected train, and 1 person selected taxi. *Note: 119 people answered this question while 13 skipped.*

- Q7: *If you live in Port Jervis, do you own or rent your residence?*

67% participants own their residence, 15% rent, 18% do not live in Port Jervis.

- Q8: *How satisfied are you with the overall quality of life in your community?*

56% selected very satisfied or satisfied, 36.5% selected dissatisfied or very dissatisfied, 7.5% selected no opinion.

- Q9: *Do you think the quality of life is getting better, staying the same or getting worst?*

49% selected getting better, 29% selected getting worse, and 22% selected staying the same.

- Q10: *Our ideas about what a community should be vary greatly. We'd like to know what you think. Please let us know how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. Place a check mark in the appropriate column indicating your view: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, or No Opinion. Port Jervis Should Be...*

There was a strong preference for the following types of communities that Port Jervis "should be": Tourist Destination (72%), Family-oriented Community (89%), Hometown [Live-work-play] Community (87%), Pedestrian and Bicycle-friendly Community (79%), and Environmentally-friendly Community (85%).

There was a lukewarm response regarding the following types of communities Port Jervis "should be": Retirement Community (51.5%), Bedroom Community (61%), and Suburban Community (52%).

There was a negative response regarding "Urban Community" (39.5%) as a type of community Port Jervis "should be".

- Q11: *In your opinion, what do you like most about living in the City of Port Jervis? Please write your response in the box below.*

The most common response to this question had to do with "community spirit", "sense of community", "small town atmosphere" and the like. Respondents generally favored familiarity with neighbors and a willingness to help each other out during hard times. There is a strong appreciation for the City's topography and geographic beauty as well as how outdoor pursuits can be experienced so conveniently. A number of respondents mentioned the City's shopping

and downtown activity combined with close proximity to outdoor activities. Other comments posted multiple times included “safe place to live” and “quality municipal services” among others.

- Q12: *In your opinion, what do you like least about living in the City of Port Jervis? Please write your response in the box below.*

Comments about what respondents liked least about Port Jervis ranged widely. However, the most common complaints related to absentee landlords, blight and property maintenance, and a perceived rise in drugs and crime. The lack of employment opportunities and lack of retail/restaurants was also listed multiple times along with high taxes.

- Q13: *People have many different ideas about goals for the community. The following are some goals and statements developed in the city's Visioning Workshop held in November. Please choose the four statements that characterize YOUR ideal vision for what Port Jervis could look like in 10-15 years.*

70.5% of people selected ‘drug free, safe environment’, 53% selected ‘thriving downtown’, 37% selected ‘maintain small town identity, a nice place to come home to’, 34% selected ‘affordable taxes and housing’, 27% selected ‘a great place to live, work, and play’, 26% selected ‘more jobs and industry’, 22% selected ‘have a centrally located grocery store’, and 22% ‘clean and attractive aesthetic, maintain green spaces, preserve trees and tree-lined streets.’

Note: When comparing these results with the public workshop, the survey and the workshop both put ‘having a drug free, safe environment’, a ‘thriving downtown’, and ‘maintaining a small town identity’, as a top 5 vision of Port Jervis. Both had ‘Jobs and industry’, ‘affordable taxes/housing’, ‘a centrally located grocery store’, ‘preservation of architecture’, and ‘clean and attractive’ in the top 10 for both lists.

- Q14: *Your age:*

51% of participants were aged 35-54, 30% were over 55, 19% were under 34.