



# Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation

www.wilksburgcdc.org

October

## Wilkinsburg Businesses – How Are We Doing?

Over the summer, Jennifer Alfieri, our intern from the University of Pittsburgh’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, conducted a survey of 30 Wilkinsburg businesses. The survey requested information about each business, their perspective of current conditions and their knowledge of the WCDC’s programs and initiatives.

This sample group of businesses employs 141 people, 49 of whom are Wilkinsburg residents; 61 are full time and 71 are part time. Of these businesses, 14 have a Business Plan, five of them received professional assistance in developing their plan, and eight of the businesses report that they are on track. Nine of the businesses report an increase in sales from last year. That’s good news for our local business district!

To what degree is the Business District safe? Over 50% of business owners surveyed say it is “Somewhat Better.” Additionally, 27 out of 30 businesses reported that they never or rarely have to call the police. But if they do, the police response is less than 5 minutes.

When the WCDC was established in 2008, community involvement drove the initial planning. Half of the businesses say they have participated in committee or business district safety meetings.

Michael Yellet, the WCDC’s Beautification Coordinator, helps to maintain our business district’s appearance. Rating the degree of street and sidewalk cleanliness, 83% of the businesses rated an improvement as “Somewhat or Extremely Better.” Many businesses appreciate the new litter receptacles and hope that more are installed as additional funding becomes available.

If you would like to participate in our survey of Wilkinsburg businesses, please call the WCDC office: 412-727-7855.

### Meeting Calendar

**Thursday 10/6**  
Business District Safety Meeting  
8:30-10am  
WCDC Office—1001 Wood St.

**Thursday 10/20**  
WCDC Design Committee  
6-7:30pm  
WCDC Office

**Saturday 10/29**  
WCDC Board Meeting  
9-11am  
Wilkinsburg School Admin. Building  
718 Wallace Avenue

You can help by sending a tax-deductible contribution to:  
WCDC  
1001 Wood St.  
Wilkinsburg, PA 15221

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**Jakob zumFelde**  
WCDC Program  
Coordinator

## A Warm Welcome to our Newest Staff Member

The WCDC welcomes Jakob zumFelde to our staff. Jakob grew up in Goshen, Indiana, and recently completed a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science and Chemistry at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Va. He is now living in East Liberty as a part of the PULSE program. PULSE (Pittsburgh Urban Leadership Service Experience, <http://pulsepittsburgh.org/>) is a community of young adults who live in Pittsburgh and spend a year developing their leadership through work with a local non-profit. Jakob is passionate about finding ways to provide sustainable transportation, economic and social opportunities for all people; and he’s excited to learn about and engage in the Wilkinsburg community through the various initiatives of WCDC.

