

North Fairmount Community Center – Unsung Heros

In 1995 I met with Mr. Rich Pohana, a geotechnical engineer with the city of Cincinnati. I wanted to discuss the need for a retaining wall. In 1979 a landslide had covered half of Baltimore Avenue at Trevor. Over time the street was eventually cleared. However, the hillside continued to come down covering the sidewalk with mud and forcing all pedestrian traffic into the street.



My understanding the day we met was the possibility of a wall in about five years. It turned out to be fifteen. Work was completed in December 2010. Mr. Pohana kept this project alive through budget cuts and staff reductions. Whenever I called to check on the progress he was always reassuring.

At the completion of this fantastic wall and the positive impact it had on North Fairmount, I decided to call Mayor Qualls. I asked her for a few minutes in a City Council Meeting of Engineering to recognize and applaud the Department: Mr. Pohana, Mr. Joe Hinzman, Construction Supervisor, and Mr. Mike Pappemann the Construction Inspector for what I refer to as the “Great Wall of North Fairmount.” Mayor Qualls denied my request and I can’t imagine why.

I have always wanted to let everyone know that, like these men, there are many unsung heroes making our neighborhoods and our city a better and safer place to live. Mr. Pohana and his team are the first in a long line of heroes I plan to write about as we move into the future.

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(photo taken from internet)