Commerce GICH

• Located in Northeast Georgia intersected by the Interstate 85 – Highway 441 Corridor in Jackson County
• Population – 6,788 (2016, U.S. Census Bureau)
• 8.301 Square Miles
Commerce Obstacles

- Over 50% Rental Rate
- Heir Property
- Significant Portion of Rental Property Owners do not live in Jackson County, or the State of Georgia
- Dilapidated Structures
- Code Enforcement Officer recently left
- Current Homes for sale inventory does not meet current demand
Commerce GICH Opportunities

• Code Enforcement has been taken over by Police Department and new personnel has been hired
• Surge in new home builds in last two years
• Residentially zoned land available for new home construction
• CHIP Grant
• New Senior Living apartment community built 2016
  • 48 units
  • 100% occupancy
Commerce GICH Team

• Since our last retreat in February
  • Held monthly meetings
  • Participated in the first community cleanup
  • Met with Dr. Shannon, of UGA, on our Housing Catalog
  • Begun cataloging our housing inventory
  • Created a logo to help with public awareness of GICH program and encourage community involvement
  • Recruited Neighborhood Champions, who are integral in helping our citizens understand the importance of the GICH program
Commerce GICH Housing Catalog

• Being performed by wards
• Held a GICH Q&A to introduce program and answer questions on the housing catalog process
• Working with Dr. Shannon, of UGA, to digitally catalog each residential unit in Commerce
• Had t-shirts made for each committee member so that they are easily identified while in the neighborhoods
Commerce parcels: Grid cell G003

Large labels show the grid cell ID.
Parcels are labeled with address on tax record and the property number.
Streets also labeled where data are available.

Grid cell location
Commerce GICH Future

- Will continue to have committee meetings every month
- Will continue and complete housing catalog before the end of the year
- Will work with State Agencies to identify housing programs that will benefit our community.
- Will apply for CHIP
- Will continue to do our part to make Commerce a great place to live!!!