



News Release

Neighborhood America and ESRI Team to Enhance Public Comment Service with GIS Mapping Software

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Neighborhood America announces the latest upgrade to its industry-leading Public Comment Service. The Company has teamed with ESRI, the industry leader in GIS technology, to integrate a GIS module into the Public Comment Service. The application now delivers near real-time mapping capabilities through ArcWeb services provided by ESRI, and further developed by Neighborhood America.

"The integration of Neighborhood America's Public Comment Service with GIS ArcWeb services is a tremendous step towards providing planners and citizens alike the tools necessary to facilitate the public participatory planning process," stated Milton Ospina, Solutions Manager at ESRI.

Neighborhood America's Public Comment Service enables the electronic collection, analysis and reporting of public comment. With the latest advance, Public Comment Service customers now have the added benefit of visually mapping levels of participation to specific geographic areas.

"The new capability provides project managers with a visual representation which will help them to identify specific clusters of interest, and target education and outreach efforts accordingly," explained Kim Kobza, Neighborhood America's President. "This is a highly innovative advance in our solution set. We believe that it will provide our customers with additional tools that will enable them to make better decisions."

"The interactive mapping software from ESRI is ideally suited for this most important application," added Kobza. "We are highly enthused to be working with a company that shares our commitment to innovation in the planning industry. ESRI is a great partner."

The on demand mapping tool plots citizen participation activity by zip code, indicating where the online comments have originated. Customers are able to view participation maps on a local, regional or national level, and zoom in/out to perform geographical analysis pertaining to a specific area. Built-in security features ensure the protection of privacy levels and prohibit unauthorized users from accessing the data.

“We selected ESRI’s technology based upon a variety of considerations,” explained David Bankston, Neighborhood America’s Chief Technology Officer. “Our new module offers our customers the most advanced GIS technology available in an industry led by ESRI. We look forward to a long term relationship and anticipate jointly developing additional enhancements and features for our customers.”

To learn more about the Public Comment Service, visit Neighborhood America online at www.NeighborhoodAmerica.com. For additional information on ESRI, visit www.ESRI.com.

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