



Task Force on Consolidated Government
Jacksonville City Council
Council Member Lori Boyer, Chair

May 22, 2014

MEETING SCHEDULE

9:00-9:15 **Welcome & Establish Quorum**
Lori Boyer, Chair

9:15-9:45 **Review of Undecided Recommendations**
Damian Cook, Task Force Administrator

1. Independent Authorities – Training for board members
2. Independent Authorities – Accountability of board members to the City and the Authority they serve

9:45-11:45 **Review of Neighborhoods & Infrastructure Committee Recommendations**
Damian Cook, Task Force Administrator

11:45-12:00 **Public Comment**

12:00 **Adjourn**

FINAL meeting:
Thursday, May 29, 2014, 9 a.m.
Council Chamber, 1st Floor, City Hall

Undecided Issues:

1. Capital Improvement Process (will be taken up with Neighborhood's recs.)
2. Independent Authorities – Training for board members
3. Independent Authorities – Accountability of board members to the City and the Authority they serve

New Issues to Review:

1. Taxation and Provision of Services in Municipal Service District 1
2. Collective Bargaining Language in Article 19 of the City Charter
3. Minority Contracting

Issues Not Completed During Committee Process

1. Alternative Revenue Sources/Grants
2. Civil Service/High Quality Workforce
3. Long-range Planning within the City



Task Force on Consolidated Government
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Undecided Recommendations

Independent Authorities

Ordinance Code Change

1. The Ordinance Code should be amended to require the City Council contract with an outside organization, through an RFP or otherwise, to provide annual training to the members of the executive boards of the independent authorities to increase continuity between the City and the authorities, and increase the institutional knowledge of each of the boards. This training shall not conflict with, but may coordinate with training on the ethics and public records laws of the City and the State. The training should include instruction on the following topics.
 - a. The history of the City of Jacksonville;
 - b. How the City's form of government works;
 - c. The history of the authority;
 - d. The business, structure, and strategic plans of the other independent authorities;
 - e. The structure of the board;
 - f. The role of the board in the governance of the authority;
 - g. The role of the Chief Executive Officer and his or her relationship to the board;
 - h. The fiduciary responsibilities of the board;
 - i. How to understand the financial statements of the authority.

Recommendation of No Change:

5. The Committee makes a recommendation of no change regarding the accountability of the independent authorities' board members to the City and the authority on which they serve.

Neighborhood's Committee Recommendations

St. John's River & Its Tributaries

Ordinance Code Change:

8. The City Council shall pass an ordinance providing that all public and private parties who discharge anything into the St. Johns river shall comply with all Federal and State pollution laws and by the year 2025 they shall not discharge any pollutant into the river.

Infrastructure

Ordinance Code Change:

2. The Ordinance Code should be changed to require independent authorities with responsibility for carrying out capitol improvements projects in the pre-consolidated urban areas of the City to assess the unmet CIP needs in those areas and are required to set aside an annual amount of their CIP budgets to address those unmet needs.

Capital Improvement Program

Ordinance Code Changes:

Organization

1. The Ordinance Code should be changed to create a committee to receive prioritized lists of projects from city departments, agencies, commissions, and Neighborhood Councils, and shall score these list of projects based upon criteria establish by the City Council through ordinance.
 - a. This committee shall meet subject to the sunshine laws.
 - b. This committee shall be the only venue for submission of projects from necessary entities, and for the scoring of submitted projects.
 - c. The Mayor shall maintain his/her right and responsibility as the Chief executive to choose the projects for inclusion on the CIP and prioritize this list prior to submittal to the City Council for approval.
 - d. The committee shall include
 - i. 2 Representatives elected by the presidents of the Neighborhood Councils
 - ii. Executive Director of the Library's Designee
 - iii. Chief Administrative Officer
 - iv. 2 Appointees made by the Mayor
 - v. Director of Public Works' Designee
 - vi. Director of Parks & Recreation's Designee

- vii. The Sheriff's Designee
- viii. Chief of Environmental Quality's Designee
- ix. Director of the Florida Department of Health in Duval's Designee

Process & Procedure

2. The Ordinance Code should be changed to require the CIP Planning Committee hold a public meeting at which they receive projects and hear explanation of projects from each department, agency, commission of the City, and Neighborhood Council for the purpose of scoring the projects prior to submitting the list to the Mayor for development-of the CIP budget for the succeeding fiscal year and a proposed Capital Improvement Program Plan.
3. The Ordinance Code should be changed to require that each department, agency, commission, and Neighborhood Council of the city shall have the opportunity to speak at the meeting and explain their projects and justifications for their priorities.
4. The Ordinance Code should be changed to require the CIP Planning Committee hold a separate public meeting to received public comment on the projects proposed by the departments, agencies, commissions, and Neighborhood Councils of the City. There shall be no less than 14 days between each meet, to allow the public time to review the submitted projects prior to the public comment meeting.
5. The Ordinance Code should be changed to require the CIP Planning Committee give 14 days notice of both meetings. The meeting shall be held in City Council chambers if possible. The meeting shall take place at time most accessible to the public.
6. The Ordinance Code should be changed to require the CIP Planning Committee meet in the sunshine to discuss and score projects after the public comment meeting.
7. The Ordinance Code should be changed to require the Mayor to prioritize the scored list and continue to present the CIP budget to the City Council on or before July 15 each year, as is currently required.

CIP Generally

8. The Ordinance Code should be changed to require the scoring criteria be established by the City Council and passed as an ordinance.
9. The CIP Committee's review shall include prioritized projects over at least a 5 year period, but preferably longer.
10. The Ordinance Code should be changed to require the CIP submitted by the Mayor prioritize projects over a 5 year period, but may include projects over a longer period of time. After completion of the first year of the revised CIP plan, projects listed in years two, three, four, five, and beyond shall automatically move up one year in priority. Year two projects shall automatically become year one projects, year three projects shall become year two projects, and so on. A project may only be held or returned to a later

priority year upon a specific vote of the City Council on that individual project, not as a part of a vote to accept the CIP as a whole.

11. The Ordinance Code should be changed to require a project not be removed from a CIP list without a two-thirds vote of the City Council.
12. The Ordinance Code should be changed to require each CIP project should include with it, in its listing on the CIP, the number of years it has been on the CIP.

Public Communication & Access to Information

13. The Ordinance Code should be changed to require the City create a webpage within the City's website for purposes of tracking the progress of projects included in the CIP similar to the Florida Department of Transportation's website. The website should allow the projects to be searchable, or shall be published, by type of project, council district, status (including "authorized by City Council but not yet funded"), by each individual source of funding, department or agency overseeing the project, projects submitted to the committee for inclusion in the CIP but not submitted by the Mayor for City Council approval, and any other categories deemed beneficial to the public.

Planning

Recommendation:

1. The City Council should reconsider and review, on a regular and continuing basis and with expert input, the size & boundaries of the existing planning districts for usefulness in the City's planning process, and relevance to the Neighborhood Councils.

Neighborhood Engagement & Participation

Neighborhood Councils Organizations

Charter Amendments:

1. The Charter should be amended to recognize that citizens are government's best resource for identifying issues, suggesting solutions, and developing programs needed to solve existing and future problems in the community; to recognize the importance of neighborhoods as assets of the City which provide the basic units for civic participation and the inspiration for civic engagement; and, further, to amend the Charter to require the City Council, the Mayor, the constitutional officers, and the agencies of the City establish procedures for receiving input from citizens and neighborhoods as a regular course of conducting their business.
- ~~2. The Charter should be amended to require that the City create, implement, and permanently maintain a citywide system of neighborhood councils to promote more citizen participation in government and to make consolidated government more~~

~~responsive to local needs.~~ The Charter should be amended to incorporate the current Neighborhood Bill of Rights, which states, every organized, officially-recognized neighborhood in the City of Jacksonville has the right to expect and receive the following from the officials, employees and agencies of the City of Jacksonville.

- a. Prompt, courteous, informed responses to all questions regarding City business.
 - b. An opportunity to participate in the design of publicly-funded projects within or adjacent to the neighborhood, including the opportunity early in the planning process to express neighborhood preferences regarding all aspects of the project. Projects include but are not limited to any City-related public works or utility projects.
 - c. An opportunity to provide informal and formal input into any proposed land use or zoning change and new development. The input from a neighborhood organization shall be considered, and when possible, incorporated by the Planning Department and the City Council.
 - d. Advance notification of any City-related public works or utility projects taking place within or adjacent to a neighborhood (e.g. road paving; water, sewer or drainage work; tree trimming; traffic signal installation or removal; park renovation or substantial maintenance; land purchases, etc.), including the day(s) and probable length of any street closures, utility interruptions, or other adverse impacts on the neighborhood, and the name and phone number of the City representative most knowledgeable and able to immediately answer questions during the course of the work.
 - e. Notification of the submission of any application for rezoning, zoning or land use variance or exception, Development of Regional Impact (DRI) or Planned Unit Development (PUD) application, Comprehensive Plan change, or other significant land use action; a clear explanation of the date, time and place of all applicable public hearings (including notification of deferrals and new hearing dates) and other opportunities for public input on the application; and a clear explanation of the type of testimony that is allowable and relevant from neighborhood organizations and resident.
 - f. Opportunity for formal input into the annual budget process, including the opportunity to express preferred city government priorities, suggested capital improvement projects and other statements that fairly represent the opinion of a majority of the neighborhood's residents.
 - g. A timely personal response of its district councilperson or that councilperson's aide to questions directed to the City Council office.
3. The Charter should be amended to incorporate into the Neighborhoods Bill of Rights the right of officially recognized neighborhoods to have violations of the Neighborhoods Bill of Rights mediated by a Citizens Planning Advisory Committee.

Ordinance Code Changes:

1. ~~The Ordinance Code should be changed to require the development of the Neighborhood Council Plan in accordance with the new Charter amendment and the Ordinance Code should include the following requirements:~~
 - a. ~~The City shall seek public input in the formulation of the Plan.~~
 - b. ~~The plan shall contain a statement of goals, policies and objectives of the Neighborhood Council system in draft ordinance format (regulations) that, if adopted by ordinance would be sufficient to implement the Plan.~~
 - c. ~~The regulations shall establish the method by which boundaries of neighborhood councils will be determined. The system for determining boundaries shall maintain existing neighborhood boundaries to the maximum extent feasible.~~
 - d. ~~The regulations must ensure that all areas of the City are given an equal opportunity to form neighborhood councils, and that all areas are incorporated into a council.~~
 - e. ~~The regulations shall establish the procedure and criteria for recognition or certification of neighborhood councils.~~
 - f. ~~The regulations shall not restrict the method by which the members of a neighborhood council are chosen.~~
 - g. ~~The regulations shall require that neighborhood councils adopt fair and open procedures for the conduct of their business.~~
 - h. ~~The Mayor and Council shall provide for the creation of a new division/department or the designation of an existing City division or department to undertake these duties within 120 days of the effective date of this Charter revision.~~
2. ~~The Ordinance Code should be changed to require the Neighborhood Council Plan to be presented to the Council and Mayor within one year of the designation of the appropriate City entity to undertake the duties of the Neighborhood Council Plan (see recommendation in Housing & Neighborhoods Department section). The Council shall consider the plan/regulations and adopt or modify it within six months. If implementing ordinances are not adopted within this time period, the regulations shall become effective and shall be binding upon all City departments and Independent Agencies.~~
3. ~~The Ordinance Code should be changed to require the certification of neighborhood councils according to the following requirements:~~
 - a. ~~Each neighborhood council seeking official certification or recognition from the City shall submit an organizational plan and by laws showing, at a minimum:~~
 - a. ~~Membership will be open to everyone who lives, works or owns property in the area (stakeholders);~~
 - b. ~~Assurances that members will reflect the diverse interests within their area;~~

- e. ~~A system through which the neighborhood council will communicate with stakeholders on a regular basis;~~
- d. ~~A system for financial accountability; and~~
- e. ~~Guarantees that all meetings will be open and public, and to the extent feasible, every stakeholders to participate in the conduct of business, deliberation and decision-making.~~
- b. ~~Neighborhood councils may petition for certification or recognition in accordance with the regulations set forth in the Plan.~~
- 4. ~~The Ordinance Code should be changed to require the establishment of procedures for receiving input from Neighborhood Councils prior to decisions by the City Council, City Council Committees, boards and commissions, and the Independent Authorities.~~
- 5. ~~The Ordinance Code should be changed to require that each neighborhood council be allowed to present to the Mayor, and the City Council, an annual list of priorities for the City budget.~~
- 6. ~~The Ordinance Code should be changed to require Neighborhood Councils monitor the delivery of City services in their respective areas and have periodic meetings with responsible officials of City departments, subject to their reasonable availability.~~
- 7. ~~The Ordinance Code should be changed to state that the City Council may delegate authority to Neighborhood Councils to hold public meetings prior to Council vote.~~
- 8. ~~The Ordinance Code should be changed to require the City Council appropriate sufficient funds for the operation of each Neighborhood Council for two years from the creation of the Neighborhood Council. These funds shall be appropriated to a special fund created for this purpose. Thereafter, funds shall be appropriated annually to carry out the defined responsibilities in full for the department and the Neighborhood Councils.~~
- 9. ~~The Ordinance Code should be changed to require the Mayor and Council shall not transfer powers, duties or functions of the department to any other department or agency during the first five years of its implementation.~~

Ordinance Code Changes:

1. The Ordinance Code should be changed to require the development of the **Neighborhood Council Plan** in accordance with the new Charter amendment(s) and the Ordinance Code should include the following requirements:
 - a. Definition of "Neighborhood Associations" to include a geographic boundary submitted by the neighborhood association and a procedure for registering the neighborhood association with the City.
 - b. Upon request from a Neighborhood Association or Applicant for any land use or zoning change, the City will schedule a meeting with the applicant to allow members of one or more neighborhood associations to ask questions or to voice support, objections, concerns, or suggestions regarding the application. City staff shall ensure that a record shall be made to document all commitments or agreements made during the meeting.

- c. A final version of all land use application documents (need a definition of land use to be inclusive of rezoning, PUDs, etc.) must be provided to the City no later than 15 days prior to any public hearing on the matter. Any changes to the application documents other than changes requested by staff or changes proposed in the course of the hearing shall cause the subject hearing to be rescheduled to comply with this 15-day requirement unless waived by all parties (including the neighborhood association(s) in writing.
- d. One or more representatives of each Neighborhood Association representing property within 350 feet of the subject property shall be accorded an opportunity to share a reasonable length of time to address and present evidence to any city/county board, committee or commission during a quasi-judicial hearing on a land use application. Such Association representative shall also be accorded the right to reasonably cross-examine the applicant's witnesses on such issues which such witness testifies. No representative of any Neighborhood Association shall be restricted by this rule from presenting individual information or questions separate from the Association's presentation.
- e. Procedures for formal input into the annual budget process, including an annual list of priorities and suggested capital improvement projects.
- f. Procedures for providing input into the design of publicly-funded projects within or adjacent to the neighborhood, including the opportunity early in the planning process to express neighborhood preferences.
- g. Process by which the ordinance will be enforced, including designated actions to correct violations.
- h. Establishment of procedures for receiving input from Neighborhood Associations prior to decisions by the City Council, City Council Committees, boards and commissions, and the Independent Authorities.

Citizens' Planning Advisory Committees (CPACs)

Ordinance Code Change:

CPACs Purpose

1. The Ordinance Code should be changed to create Citizens Planning Advisory Committees with the purpose of:
 - a. Providing a forum for neighborhoods and residents to
 - i. Be recognized as local government's best resource for identifying issues, suggesting solutions, and developing programs needed to solve existing and future problems in the community; recognized as assets of the City which provide the basic units for civic participation and the inspiration for civic engagement;
 - ii. Clearly pinpoint responsibility in administrative matters by engaging the Mayor's administration in a conversation, as was contemplated during consolidation;

- iii. Educate themselves on land use and zoning issues, and provide responses and feedback to the Planning Commission and City Council
- iv. Have violations of the Neighborhood Bill of Right's mediated;

CPACs Generally

2. The City Council shall codify by ordinance the creation and duties of Citizen Planning Advisory Committees (CPACs) as outlined below:
 - a. The regulations shall not restrict the method by which the members of a Citizens Planning Advisory Committee are chosen. Membership should not be limited to presidents or chairs of organizations but may be appointed by such persons.
 - b. The regulations shall require that CPACs adopt fair and open procedures for the conduct of their business.
 - c. Each CPAC ~~neighborhood council seeking official certification or recognition from the City~~ shall submit an organizational plan and by-laws showing, at a minimum:
 - i. Membership will be open to everyone who lives, works or owns property in the area (stakeholders);
 - ii. Assurances that members will reflect the diverse interests within their area;
 - iii. A system through which the CPACs ~~neighborhood council~~ will communicate with stakeholders on a regular basis;
 - iv. A system for financial accountability; and
 - v. Guarantees that all meetings will be open and public, and to the extent feasible, allows every stakeholder to participate in the conduct of business, deliberation and decision-making.
 - ~~d. Neighborhood councils may petition for certification or recognition in accordance with the regulations set forth in the Plan.~~
4. The Ordinance Code should be changed to state that the City Council may delegate authority to CPACs ~~Neighborhood Councils~~ to hold public meetings prior to Council vote.
- ~~5.~~ The Ordinance Code should be changed to require the City Council appropriate sufficient funds annually for the operation of each CPAC ~~Neighborhood Council for two years from the creation of the Neighborhood Council~~. These funds shall be appropriated to a special fund created for this purpose. ~~Thereafter, funds shall be appropriated annually to carry out the defined responsibilities in full for the department and the Neighborhood Councils.~~

CPAC Duties & Responsibilities

1. The Ordinance Code should outline the following duties and responsibilities of CPACs:
 - a. Require ~~Neighborhood Councils~~ CPACs monitor the delivery of City services in their respective areas and have periodic meetings with responsible officials of City departments, subject to their reasonable availability.

- b. Gather input from neighborhood associations within its boundaries and put together a list of unmet needs to be addressed within the CIP.
- c. Determine its agenda based on the needs and requests of the neighborhood associations within its boundaries. Generally, CPACs should work on issues that neighborhood organizations may not have the capacity to do, such as city policies or practices that are broad in nature like development standards, or issues that traverse numerous neighborhoods within its boundaries.
- d. CPACs may handle zoning and land use issues at the request of a neighborhood organization but generally zoning and land use issues should be handled by the neighborhood association.
- e. CPACs shall develop a procedure for mediating complaints of violations of the Neighborhood Bill of Rights by providing both the neighborhood association and the department, agency, or party responsible for the possible violation a opportunity to explain their situation and then assist in finding an amicable solution.
- f. CPACs shall report violations of the Neighborhood Bill of Rights, including the number of violations and the departments, agencies, and/or parties responsible for the violations, to the City Council on a quarterly basis.

Housing and Neighborhoods Department

Charter Amendment:

1. The Charter should be amended to create or designate a City division or department to nurture and support neighborhoods, neighborhood associations and CPACs. ~~develop, nurture and support the grass roots, independent and participatory neighborhood councils.~~
2. The Charter should be amended to create or designate a City division or department to: ~~prepare a plan, approved by City Council via legislation, with public input, for the creation of a system of neighborhood councils to ensure that every part of the City is within the boundary of a neighborhood council, and has an opportunity to form a neighborhood council.~~
 - a. ~~The City division or department tasked with the creation of the plan for a system of neighborhood councils shall also be tasked with:~~
 - i. ~~Assisting neighborhoods in organizing themselves, preparing petitions for certification, and identifying boundaries that do not divide communities.~~
 - ii. ~~Assisting neighborhoods and Neighborhood Councils CPACs with public and civic education, outreach and training with an emphasis given to areas that have traditionally low rates of participation in government.~~
 - iii. ~~Assisting neighborhoods and CPACs councils with their annual submission of priority projects for consideration in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).~~

- iv. Identifying neighborhoods at the “tipping point” within 1 year of establishment of the department or division.
- ~~b. The City shall designate the appropriate entity to convene quarterly meetings of Neighborhood Councils to share information and to engage neighborhoods in the overall City high level planning effort.~~

CPAC CHAIRS' RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
TASK FORCE ON CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT

To Chairperson Lori Boyer and all Task Force on Consolidated Government Members,
As requested by the Task Force on May 8, 2014 the CPAC Chairs have discussed the items that we feel are most important to the continued and future effectiveness of CPACs and have formed those items into this letter:

1. A budget is needed for the CPACs to use for administrative supplies/ tasks and marketing. An amount of \$30,000 for each CPAC was suggested. This budget would not include the monies already allocated for staff pay/benefits.
2. More staff support. Planners, Coordinators (at least 1 each per CPAC) and the appropriate budget increase to fund those positions. In order to help facilitate the move of CPAC to a more proactive role between government and the citizens each CPAC Chair should have assigned to them a staff person capable of researching and writing position papers, a staff assistant if you will.
3. Education of the subcommittee Chairs and any other members wishing to increase their knowledge of zoning and city ordinance issues (CPAC School). This would also require a budget for the Office of General Council (OGC) to charge to in the event that the training will include legal assistance, as it should. OGCs responsibility will also include answering legal questions posed by the CPAC Chairmen and not individual members.
4. A standard model should be developed for all CPACs. This model will serve as the minimum structure and support for each CPAC, however if a CPAC requires more support or a different structure it should be able to adapt to the needs of its citizenry. Equal dissemination of information by support staff and a minimum standard implemented to insure that each CPAC has the information that it needs to reach substantive decisions in a thoughtful manner. Currently the support from staff is not uniform in application or function. An example was cited that some CPACs require less staff information than others and some Chairmen were amazed as to how much information could be provided.
5. Websites and new technology platforms; Facebook, Twitter....etc should be employed to help capture the next generations' ability to interact with the CPAC and the City government as a whole. The Southeast's website and its interaction with the public should be an example.
6. Marketing the CPACs to the public through the City's website and all City interactions with the public. Currently the City promotes the CARE System exclusively for concern resolutions by citizens.

7. Reestablish the Neighborhoods Dept to focus the efforts of this initiative more effectively.
8. An LUZ subcommittee Chair (or representative) will be selected by the CPAC Chairs to serve on the Planning Commission. This representative will serve a one year term and be replaced by a different CPAC LUZ subcommittee Chair (or representative).
9. Bi-monthly CPAC meetings should be scheduled as the timeline for input into the current decision making process precludes some CPACs from input.
11. Applications should be copied to the affected CPAC no less than 5 days after submission/payment of fees.
12. CPACs should mirror the Planning District's size and number. If the City decides that more Planning Districts are needed than the CPAC numbers should grow accordingly.
13. The Sunshine Law and its provisions must apply to CPACs as with any advisory panel whose decisions are to be considered for implementation with the full weight of law.

Responsibly Serving,

Gloria DeVall, Chairman Urban Core Citizen Planning Advisory Council, Planning District 1

Michael Anania, Chairman Greater Arlington/Beaches Citizen Planning Advisory Council,
Planning District 2

Jim Hill, Chairman Southeast Citizen Planning Advisory Council, Planning District 3

Dewey Walker, Chairman Southwest Citizen Planning Advisory Council, Planning District 4

John Pittman, Chairman Northwest Citizen Planning Advisory Council, Planning District 5

Bobby Taylor, Chairman North Citizen Planning Advisory Council, Planning District 6

1 Introduced by Council Members Dale, Jones, Smith, Griffin, Crescimbeni, Soud, Tullis, Brown, Krav
2 Fields, Leggett, Draper, Overton, Davis, Reagan and Wood:

3
4 **RESOLUTION 95-159- 44**

5 **A RESOLUTION URGING AND REQUESTING THE MAYOR TO**
6 **ESTABLISH A MAYOR'S OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD**
7 **ASSOCIATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING,**
8 **COORDINATING AND ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF**
9 **NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS; RECOMMENDING DUTIES**
10 **AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE OFFICE; REQUESTING**
11 **ASSIGNMENT OF EXISTING PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES TO**
12 **THE OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE IN THE FY 1995-**
13 **96 BUDGET; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

14
15 **WHEREAS, it should be widely recognized that neighborhoods are the lifeblood of any city, often**
16 **being the venues in which broad public policy actually impacts the lives of Jacksonville's citizens; and**

17 **WHEREAS, because of the sheer size of its jurisdiction and the centralized nature of its**
18 **administrative mechanisms, Jacksonville city government sometimes has difficulty in focusing attention**
19 **to the widely varying needs of its dozens of very different neighborhoods; and**

20 **WHEREAS, programs or actions on the part of the City that provide individual attention to the**
21 **concerns and priorities of neighborhoods are a positive force for renewing citizen confidence and trust**
22 **in their government; and**

23 **WHEREAS, the many neighborhood-related activities already undertaken by the City are spread**
24 **over numerous departments and agencies, thereby denying them the visibility and focus they deserve; and**

25 **WHEREAS, neighborhoods with strong voluntary neighborhood organizations have demonstrated**
26 **progress in achieving vitality, security and cohesiveness which positively impact the residents' quality of**
27 **life; and**

28 **WHEREAS, neighborhoods which are organized for continuing betterment for their residents can**

1 foster neighborhood pride and enjoyment and assistance by and between neighbors; and

2 WHEREAS, the City does not currently focus in a recognizable, organized way on crea
3 conditions which encourage the development of neighborhood organizations or on the success of such
4 organizations in promoting the welfare of their neighborhoods; and

5 WHEREAS, the City, as part of the executive branch, should create a Mayor's Office of
6 Neighborhood Associations to act as a "one stop" center for neighborhood organizations to obtain
7 advice, assistance, support and direction to assist them in serving the needs of their particular
8 neighborhoods; and

9 WHEREAS, the establishment of such an office may eliminate duplicative City services, create
10 cost savings and create efficiencies in citizen involvement which may result in a reduction in the overall
11 cost of government; and

12 WHEREAS, the Council recognizes the beneficial impact that well-run, motivated and informed
13 neighborhood organizations can have on the overall quality of life in Jacksonville, and wishes to
14 encourage such organized citizen participation in local government; now therefore

15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

16 Section 1. The Council hereby urges and requests the Mayor to establish a Mayor's Office of
17 Neighborhood Associations to be an administrative entity of the executive branch, reporting directly to
18 the Mayor, focused on strengthening and assisting neighborhood organizations and on facilitating
19 communication between the City and its residents via those neighborhood organizations. The Office
20 would coordinate existing City resources, personnel and programs with neighborhood impacts in order
21 to focus these efforts and provide them with greater visibility, both within City government and in the
22 community.

23 Section 2. The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Assistance should have broad-reaching duties
24 and responsibilities to accomplish its purposes, including but not limited to:

- 25 ✓a) Advise on and facilitate the creation of neighborhood organizations.
26 b) Advise on and facilitate the creation of regional neighborhood organization coalitions.
27 c) Establish a Neighborhood Organizations Roundtable to serve as a city-wide coalition

28

1 of all such officially designated organizations, holding at least annual meetings to bring together the
2 representatives of these neighborhood organizations for the purpose of sharing strategies that may
3 neighborhood organizations more effective in promoting public safety, increasing property values
4 fostering amicable neighbor relations.

5 ✓ d) Compile and continually update an inventory of all officially-recognized neighborh
6 organizations operating in the community. In order to qualify as an officially-recognized neighborh
7 organization, such organization should be incorporated in the State of Florida and hold an IRS 501(c)
8 or 501(c)(9) tax exempt status.

9 ✓ e) Establish an awards program for various categories of neighborhood organizations th
10 demonstrate outstanding progress in increasing their effectiveness as advocates for neighborho
11 interests, as service delivery mechanisms, as information resources, and in other areas.

12 f) Coordinate with the Pro Bono Panel of the Jacksonville Bar Association, th
13 Jacksonville Lawyer Reference Service, the Jacksonville Chapter of the American Institute of Certifie
14 Public Accountants, the local chapter of the National Association of Accountants, the local chapter o
15 the American Planning Association, and other professional organizations to connect neighborhood
16 associations in need of basic legal, financial, planning, and other professional services with certified
17 professionals willing to provide such services on a pro bono basis in order to assist these neighborhoods
18 in becoming officially designated neighborhood organizations for purposes of this ordinance.

19 ✓ g) Act as a clearinghouse for all information intended for dissemination to neighborhoods
20 and citizens, and as a one-stop resource for neighborhood organizations seeking information or City
21 assistance with regard to common neighborhood activities such as establishment of a Neighborhood
22 Watch, temporary street closures, organization of block parties, cleanup campaigns, etc.

23 h) Serve as a facilitator for the arrangement of mediation services for neighborhood
24 organizations in need of such services, either for constituent residents or for inter-neighborhood disputes.

25 ✓ i) Serve as a communications channel with the neighborhood organizations to enable them
26 to better communicate with the City government.

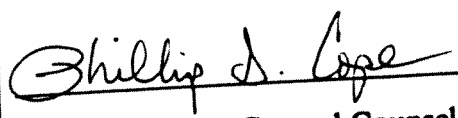
27 j) Develop criteria and procedures to guide the implementation of a Neighborhood
28

1 Matching Fund program by which neighborhood organizations may apply for and receive cash grants
2 from the City in amounts equal to a portion(s) of the neighborhood's cash or in-kind service contribut
3 toward the cost of neighborhood improvement projects. Such matching fund program shall be used only
4 to provide supplemental neighborhood funding, and shall not replace dollars which would otherwise have
5 been available to the neighborhoods from the City.

6 Section 3. The Council hereby urges and requests the Mayor to reallocate existing resources and
7 personnel necessary for the operation of the Office of Neighborhood Assistance in his proposed Fiscal
8 Year 1995-96 budget for Council review and approval.

9 Section 4. This resolution shall become effective upon signature by the Mayor, or upon
10 becoming effective without the Mayor's signature.

11
12 Form approved:

13
14 
15 Senior Assistant General Counsel

16 (jrc 2/3/95)

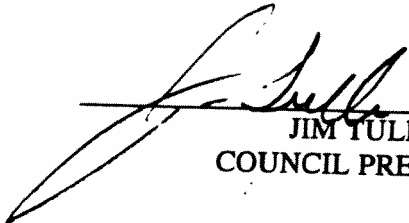
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RESOLUTION 95-159-44

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION


ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL

March 14, 1994




JIM TULLIS
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:


BEVERLY S. DOMEN
SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL

MAR 21 1995

APPROVED _____, 19____

ED. AUSTIN, MAYOR



