

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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**STAND UP FOR YOUR NEIGHBORBOODS**

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**August 27, 2014**

**10:00 a.m.**

**City Hall**

**117 W. Duval St., 1st Floor**

**Lynwood Roberts Room**

**Attendance:** Council Members Denise Lee (Chair), Greg Anderson, John Crescimbeni, Warren Jones (arr. 10:16a), Jim Love

**Excused:** Council Members Bill Bishop, Bill Gulliford

**Also**: Karen Bowling – Mayor’s Office; Chief Pat Ivey – Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office; Janice Billy – Council Auditor’s Office;Paige Johnston and Peggy Sidman– General Counsel Office; Dan Macdonald – ECA; Yvonne P. Mitchell – Council Research Division

See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

Council Member Lee called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. In her opening remarks, CM Lee provided a brief overview on the establishment of the Stand Up for Your Neighborhood Blight Committee. The meeting began with introductions from the committee and attendees.

**Minutes**

Motion/2nd move to approve minutes Love/Anderson (4-0)

**Report on policy regarding structures 50+ years old – CM Warren Jones**

CM Jones reported according to state statutes tax reverted properties cannot be addressed for approximately six years. The breakdown includes two years for tax certificate process and three years for lands available. A list has been requested of properties that have met timeframe in order to expedite the process with assisting developers or non-profits to ultimately get the properties into the hands of home owners. He stated that a resolution may be needed to amend the state statue to shorten the timeframe to get properties back on tax role. This originated from the proposed legislation to remove/demolish homes from non-historic long list. The legislation has been revised to include three options prior to demolition.

Ms. Margaret Gregory inquired about the maintenance responsibility of vacant properties. She has assumed maintenance of the property next door to her (1411 W. 9th Street) to minimize criminal activity and safety concerns for herself and elderly neighbor, Myrtle Turner. Ms. Gregory has made several complaints on various properties in her neighborhood that are owned by Mr. Edward C. Wilson. **CM Lee requested Mr. Prado meet with Ms. Gregory to get further details.**

Mr. Hosea Small inquired whether there was a process which allowed properties to be cut on regular bases for the betterment of the neighborhoods.

Ms. Roberta Thomas commented former CM Hyde & CM Lee created legislation that was passed to assist with mowing and landscape of vacant properties. She stated that reports are turned into a vacant registry and services are provided. The legislation is for bank owned properties. **CM Lee requested Ms. Paige Johnston to bring legislation to next meeting.**

**Subcommittee on business permitting & licensing (COUs) – CM Warren Jones**

CM Jones reported many businesses fail to obtain a certificate of use after paying the business license tax. The proposed legislation has been drafted to add language that allows Planning & Development Department to suspend and revoke COUs provided the business has not meet all regulations and inspections. Mr. Calvin Burney requested that Planning & Development Department and Chief of Building Inspections are able to review proposed legislation prior to submission.

There was extensive discussion regarding business tax, requirements and notifications. Ms. Johnston commented various entities including ITD and the Tax Collector Office have met and discussed developing some internal communication procedures to address concerns; and updating the website that will describe the process steps for doing business with the City.  **The committee will convene again within next two weeks to review suggestions and make a report at next meeting.**

**45th Street Amoco Station PUD – Paige Johnston**

CM Lee provided an overview of purpose of down zoning the property. The Planning & Development Department has attempted to work with the business owner to address the various concerns. There was discussion regarding grandfather rights to the property and time limitation to comply. Mr. Huxford suggested minimizing the zoning to a residential district which will minimize timeline to 6 months. **Ms. Johnston will revise proposal and report at the next meeting.**

Chief Ivey provided a detail map with crime statistics in the vicinity of 45th Street & Moncrief Road. He reported statistics are verified through intelligence led policing to determine staffing needs, etc. He stated Zone 4 has more documented crime specific to residential burglaries than the other zones. Zone 5 has more violent incidents than the remaining zones. The patterns and trends determine how resources are divided throughout the City.

**Update on criminal surveillance cameras and Operation Cease Fire – Chief Ivey**

Chief Ivey reported the purchasing of the cameras is about 95% complete. Once all the parts have been received, cameras are expected to be in operation within 60 days. There is a small delay due to the shipment of a part expected to arrive in five weeks.

Operation Cease Fire has developed Community Problem Response (CPR) Teams in all zones. The CPR teams are focused on causes of criminal activity in the areas and providing solutions through extensive inspections, investigations and collaboration with residents.

**Status Report on 13th and Moncrief – Robert Prado**

Mr. Prado reported that Ms. Shaw is initiating the injunction process against property owner of 13th Street & Moncrief Road. Criminal statistics and historical data are being compiled as additional documentation for injunction of 2300 and 2306 Moncrief Road as a public nuisance. There was discussion regarding injunction vs. foreclosure on both properties. **CM Lee directed Mr. Prado to start foreclosure procedures immediately.**

**Topics Not Covered on Agenda**

Report on neighborhoods organized over last 3 years – Daphne Colbert & Kenny Logsdon

Report on Payne Street near 13th Street and Moncrief Road – Paul Tutwiler, NWJCDC

**New Business**

None

**Public Comment**

Ms. Roberta Thomas suggested the committee review the Missouri Senate Bill 731 to address nuisance properties. She provided a copy of the bill for review. Additionally, she was concerned about ditches in Arlington that have not been cleaned since February. **CM Lee requested Ms. Thomas give the Care Issue numbers to Mr. Macdonald.**

Ms. Gregory is concerned about the store at 2610 N. Myrtle Avenue. She reported various illegal activities on site and threats made by owners. She provided information on police reports and concerns of neighborhood residents. **CM Lee requested Chief Ivey to revisit store for cooperation from owner regarding loitering.**

Mr. Carnell Oliver provided a different social perspective regarding loitering. His suggestion to deterring crime is advocating for criminal justice reform; and encouraging businesses to hire individuals with criminal backgrounds.

Mr. Paul Tutwiler commented that many citizens choose to stay in some neighborhoods because of pride and longevity of social/family ties. He believes there are two issues: lack of property responsibility and assisting some people with reintegrating back into society. He commented on capable with dealing with one and encouraged with cooperating with the City of Jacksonville and other entities in improve the other.

CM Lee requested attendees bring back ideas and recommendations of services such as GED programs, work programs, etc., to offer resources and alternatives to minimize illegal activity. She expressed additional concern about the safety of City employees along with what can be done to improve the quality of life for everybody within our City.

There was discussion regarding validation of parking for citizens that attend the meetings. Mr. Jack Shad stated he would contact Ms. Cheryl Brown and inform Mr. Macdonald about the parking validation for citizens at the next meeting. It should be noted that citizens have to park in the library garage to receive validation. Ms. Aleizha Batson stated she would post notice about free parking for citizens attending meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Yvonne P. Mitchell, Council Research Division (904) 630-1679

Posted 09.03.14 10:00a.m.