

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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**STAND UP FOR YOUR NEIGHBORBOODS**

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**September 17, 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 (arr. 10:52a), Warren Jones, 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 Cherry Shaw– 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 10:16 a.m. The meeting began with introductions from the committee and attendees. In her opening remarks, CM Lee thanked the media for their recent coverage on blight issues. Additionally, she complimented JEA crews for their detailed landscaping services in the community.

**Minutes**

Motion/2nd move to approve August 27th minutes Jones/Anderson (4-0)

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

Ms. Johnston presented a revised draft of the legislation for rezoning the property at 45th Street Amoco Station owned by Safar Property. This proposal is an effort to get the property owner to clean up his property. There was discussion regarding similar action taken in CM Jones’ district with a business owner.

Motion/2nd move to draft a letter to the property owner requesting his cooperation in cleaning up and removing the blight on his property - Jones/Love (4-0)

**Mr. Calvin Burney will draft the letter for the committee and submit it to Mr. Dan Macdonald to distribute to for review.**

**Certificate of Use Subcommittee – CM Warren Jones & Paige Johnston**

Ms. Johnston provided a revised draft of the legislation for Certificate of Use. The revised draft provides for consistency in the process and requires applicants to be in compliance with all inspections prior to receiving a COU. There was discussion regarding definition of public nuisance, who can apply for an injunction of complaint on criminal activity, and Planning & Development comments. The subcommittee will meet to incorporate suggestions into the draft legislation. **CM Jones stated the subcommittee will present a final draft for approval and introduction at next meeting.**

**Report on Policy regarding structures 50 years or older – CM Jones**

CM Jones stated the scheduled meeting did not have a quorum. He is scheduling another meeting and will report at the next meeting.

**Tax Deed and Foreclosure Process on Parcels Less than $5,000 – CM Love & Loree French**

CM Lee explained that after identification of fifty properties with foreclosure issues within a targeted area, the subcommittee was tasked with developing a plan for the City to address properties under $5,000. Ms. French provided a detailed report on the tax deed and foreclosure process. The report included specifics regarding various properties in foreclosure to include the advantages and disadvantages of City pursuing tax deeds. There was discussion regarding the City paying back taxes and forgiven liens to transfer properties to nonprofits; environmental issues; tax certificate purchases and policies; and how to proceed. The subcommittee will contact the Real Estate Council and other potential stakeholders to further discussion and come up with recommendations. This topic will be discussed at the next meeting.

**CM Lee requested that Ms. Bowling ensure legislation that has been introduced and approved to be added to the website to inform citizens of actions taken to improve the community.**

**CM Lee requested Ms. Kim Scott to present a list of the top 20 properties throughout the City that have extensive fines.**

**Topics Not Covered on Agenda**

* Discussion of legislation that created a vacant property service registry for bank-owned properties – Paige Johnston
* 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

**Announcement**

Ms. Aleizha Batson requested the committee review the website outline that was emailed in order to get approval to post. Mr. Macdonald will

**Public Comment**

Mr. Carnell Oliver suggested that local CDCs combine efforts to capitalize on the new market tax credit to fund larger projects in a particular area.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

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

Posted 09.26.14 4:00p.m.