

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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**SPECIAL AD HOC COMMITTEE ON JACKSONVILLE’S**

**NEIGHBORBOOD BLIGHT MEETING MINUTES**

**October 22, 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. 10:28a), Bill Gulliford

**Excused:** Council Members Bill Bishop, Warren Jones, Jim Love

**Also**: Karen Bowling – Mayor’s Office; Cherry Shaw and Paige Johnston – General Counsel Office; Dan Macdonald – ECA Dist. 8; Robert Campbell – Office of Council Auditor’s; Yvonne Mitchell – Council Research

See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

Council Member Lee called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m.

CM Lee began the meeting with introductions from the committee and attendees.

**Minutes**

The minutes were received as information due to the lack of a quorum.

**Old Business**

1. Media Campaign update – Paul Martinez and Aleizha Batson

Ms. Batson and Mr. Martinez provided a thorough review of the public awareness campaign “Fight Blight”. The committee reviewed the incorporated changes for the logo and website from the previous meeting. The choice of font and graphics was narrowed down to #2 and #7. CM Lee requested that the campaign sub-committee continue to refine overall campaign. Item will be placed on next week’s agenda.

Mr. Martinez announced the partnership with JTA in the “Fight Blight” campaign. JTA will wrap a bus with the campaign theme for one year which is equivalent to $22,500. The campaign kickoff is tentatively scheduled for mid-January with a press conference, mascot and presentation of the bus.

1. Fight Blight Mobile Application – Usha Mohan

Ms. Mohan presented background options for mobile application. The committee preferred the option with the sun in distance. There was extensive dialogue about inserting an additional button to provide specifics or questions regarding blight prior to submitting report. This would minimize inspectors responding to areas that do not meet the Code requirements. It was suggested the mobile application mimic the reporting of blight through the CARE system. Ms. Mohan will take the ideas back to the vendor to refine the application.

1. CARE reports for illegal dumping in Districts 7, 8, 9,10 and 11 - Jeff Foster

Mr. Foster distributed three reports: Top 20 Dumping Sites; Report on the Blight Process; and Current Status of Top 20 Dumping Sites. The Top 20 Dumping Sites in the City was compiled from the CARE system. The statistics covered tire dumping, litter and illegal dumping. The report was divided into geographic areas to illustrate the specific trends and trajectories in all of the Council Districts for the last three fiscal years. It should be noted that overall Districts 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11 have the highest issue counts.

1. Report from OGC on the process to pursue out-of-town violators – Cherry Shaw

Ms. Shaw explained the process for filing a lawsuit against out of state violators. She identified positive and negative components associated with filing out of state. There have been approximately 100-200 motions filed for final judgments. In these cases, many of the corporations in Florida have paid the face value of the citations issued on snipe signs prior to the final judgment. In response to Ms. Bowling’s question, Ms. Shaw will provide an estimate of cost versus the expected return on a case. It was suggested that filing a lawsuit should happen automatically once fines reach and go beyond a certain accumulated dollar amount specifically of those out of state entities.

**New Business**

None

**Public Comments & Announcements**

Mr. Paul Soares suggested a possible opportunity to engage students in a cleanup activity which could be arranged through DCPS Community Family and Engagement Division. CM Lee requested Ms. Batson follow up with Mr. Soares.

Mr. Jay Higbee provided a brief overview of the Andrew Robinson Foundation. It is a public-private partnership to provide additional resources to the school, students and community.

Mr. Paul Tutwiler expressed his concern for the recent tragedies near Moncrief area. He stated being committed to working within 19 neighborhoods to get them energized, organized, and ready to take back their communities.

Ms. Allison Albert inquired about the status of the property list of fines and foreclosure of Moncrief & 13th. CM Lee stated both topics will be on next week’s agenda.

Mr. Carnell Oliver expressed his appreciation to committee for their handwork.

In response to a question by Ms. Gracie McCastler, Mr. Soares will provide an update on the status of school truancy.

Ms. Roberta Thomas inquired about the status of rental ordinances. This topic is being handled in CM Gulliford’s sub-committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

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

Posted 10.24.14 10:00 a.m.