

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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**STAND UP FOR YOUR NEIGHBORBOODS**

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**November 13, 2014**

**10:00 a.m.**

**City Hall**

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

**Lynwood Roberts Room**

**Attendance:** Council Members Denise Lee (Chair), John Crescimbeni, Warren Jones

**Excused:** Council Members Greg Anderson, Bill Bishop, Bill Gulliford, Jim Love

**Also**: Chief Pat Ivey – Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office; Kimberly Scott –Regulatory Compliance; Robert Campbell – Council Auditor’s Office;Elaine Spencer – Housing & Community Development; Paige Johnston and Cherry Shaw – Office of General Counsel Office; Melissa Long – Environmental Quality Division; Jeff Foster – Solid Waste; Dave McDaniel and John Pappas – Public Works; Robert Prado – Municipal Code Compliance; 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 10:15 a.m. The meeting began with introductions from the committee and attendees. It was announced that anyone parked in the Library Parking Garage could have ticket validated at the end of the meeting.

**Minutes**

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

**Discussion of status at property at 13th Street and Moncrief – Pat Ivey and Cherry Shaw**

Chief Ivey reported the perimeter intelligence data did not show direct relation of the corner store to actual criminal activity. The owner has been approached several times regarding cooperating with JSO to improve the immediate area of the store which he has never followed up. JSO is continuously gathering information from police service calls.

Ms. Shaw stated the process for foreclosures is underway and legislation is being drafted for introduction to the full Council. The property has outstanding incumbencies that must be handled accordingly. Information is still being gathered in preparation for submitting an injunction. Ms. Shaw stated that witnesses will be called to testify regarding the property being a public nuisance.

**Presentation of illegal dumping areas throughout the City and Camera placement – Pat Ivey**

Chief Ivey stated that the CARE system data along with other reporting systems to determine the top ten locations for illegal dump sites. The cameras will rotate as areas are cleaned up. JSO now has Community Par Response Teams in each zone to assist in non-typical police calls for service including monitoring for illegal dumping. The teams will assist with handling the underlying issues to provide resolutions. Chief Ivey presented a map to the committee with the current ten illegal dumping sites as it relates to the new process. He commented there is discussion with State Attorney’s Office for a designated attorney to handle illegal dumping cases. The penalty for illegal dumping depends on various circumstances such as whether the dumping was on a protected site, private property, commercial vendor, etc.

CM Lee requested that Chief Ivey and Jeff Foster confer to ensure that the data utilized by Solid Waste and JSO coincides to generate the most accurate top ten dumping sites. In response to a question, Chief Ivey stated that private surveillance recordings can be used for evidentiary purposes. CM Crescimbeni was appointed to lead the illegal dumping sub-committee.

In response to a complaint about tennis courts at 5th Street & Perry Street, Mr. Daryl Joseph was requested to follow up.

**Crime statistics maps – Pat Ivey**

Chief Ivey reviewed a detail statistical map of Zone 5 via a power point slides. There was discussion regarding the various types of crime and dissolution of case. He explained that vetting certain information has the potential of negatively impacting a case. Chief Ivey will present a report on all six zones over the next several meetings. The information will cover the statistics of aggravated battery and general offenses.

Chief Ivey displayed a map covering City-wide violent “hot spots” over the last 90 days. A hot spot is defined as an area with multiple concentrations of violent incidences. The maps shown are used to assist with gathering resources for JSO. Additional statistics were provided for top burglary areas per zones. Chief Ivey showed a rap video that highlights some local youth and displays an element of retaliation. The video was recently shown at a neighborhood community meeting with varying opinions. The video is on YouTube.

**Map of Neighborhood Organizations – Calvin Burney and Elaine Spencer**

Mr. Burney showed a map which displayed the all the organizations that are registered throughout each Council District. Based on the map, most organized neighborhoods have the least criminal activity. It was suggested that more resources are needed in developing a plan to assist citizens with organizing their neighborhoods. There was discussion regarding difficulty in engaging residents that are renters vs. homeowners. Mr. Burney will provide an electronic form of the map and a larger legend for the next meeting. Ms. Karen Bowling will lead this subcommittee.

CM Lee requested a letter be sent to all CDCs and request their attendance at the next meeting. The letter is expected to be mailed by Friday, November 14th. Ms. Bowling will follow up with CM Lee to confirm the meeting date.

**Items for Next Agenda**

Assignment from JSO

Assignment from Neighborhoods

Presentation from HabiJax

**Abandoned Homes Legislation (non-historic) – Warren Jones**

CM Jones reported the draft legislation is being finalized to be present to the committee for review and approval at the next meeting. The Clerk of Courts Association is seeking to have the length of time a property is on lands available reduced from three years which is established by state statue. There was discussion regarding the implementation of a process of exempt structures to be mothballed and funding sources. Ms. Shaw explained the legislation has been introduced to Council but has been deferred. The pending draft will be a substitute.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Tutwiler expressed the importance of engaging the people in the community as well as improving the product in order to change the direction of the neighborhood.

Mr. Ysryl commented that the focus should be on economic development and job training for youth to be good taxpaying citizens.

Mr. Small stated there needs to be more investment back into the security of the City with more police officers because of the crime.

Ms. Thomas requested that Ft. Caroline Club Estates South is added to the neighborhood map. Additionally, she stated that Mayor Brown needs make a statement on television an appeal to the citizens to stop the crime and actions that need to be taken. Ms. Thomas offered a suggestion to create legislation to deal with high density complexes in those “hot spots”.

Ms. Gregory read emails regarding her concerns for the lack of attention to her complaints about the vacant residence next to her property. The emails were sent to Mr. Macdonald and Ms. Erica Bennett.

Ms. McCastler commented that too many youth access to weapons and inquired about gun buy backs.

Ms. Thompkins expressed her concern about the removal of the police officer in park; and water contamination issues in the neighborhood.

Bishop Johnson stated it was important for the CDCs to take a more active role in the communities. He explained that more resources are needed for CDCs and removal of restraints to maximize the ability of these organizations.

Ms. Hightower shared information regarding criminal activity and concern for neighbors on Stewart Street. She believes more officers are needed; however, they must be more proactive in addressing individuals standing on the corners and sidewalks.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

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

Posted 11.17.14 7:00p.m.