

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION



Possible Uses of Vacant Registry Funds

1. Foreclosure Intervention - Cash assistance up to \$8,500 to eligible home owners.
2. Foreclosure Mediation – Counseling to prevent foreclosure actions through possible loan modification and consumer credit counselling.
3. Educational brochures, including the creation, production and distribution of informational material to assist with foreclosure prevention and foreclosure intervention. Promote the education and advertisement of the accomplishments of the vacant registry initiative.
4. Staffing needs to administer, monitor, and track vacant property registry programs and funds to ensure compliance.
5. Mowing, board-ups and demolition of blighted private properties on or in proximity to homes on the vacant registry.
6. Repair and/or replacement of Neighborhood/Corridor entry signs, landscaping and lighting.
7. Façade improvements to the exterior structures including, painting, fencing and graffiti removal of blighted private properties on or in proximity to homes in the vacant registry.
8. Gap financing to non-profit developer's for the acquisition, rehabilitation and sale of vacant homes in which the total development costs exceeds the appraised value of the home.
9. Construction financing for the rehabilitation of vacant REO properties.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION



January 16, 2015

To: Bill Guliford, City Council, District 13
John Crescimbeni, City Council, At-Large District 2

RE: List of projects to benefit the neighborhoods of Jacksonville
History of Neighborhoods Magazine
History of Seeds of Change
History of Mayor's Neighborhood Matching Grants
History of CommUniverCity

At the December 16, 2014 Neighborhoods Subcommittee meeting, the Neighborhoods Initiative Teams was tasked with developing a prioritized list of projects and modes of communication that we feel would be a great service and benefit to the community if a funding source was identified. Dialogue was exchanged about some of the successful programs that were discontinued due to budgetary restraints. It was requested that we share some background on these programs so everyone would have some familiarity with the programs. In effort to help keep the January 20, 2015 meeting within scheduled time limits we determined it may be beneficial to provide the background information and examples from previous projects prior to the meeting.

Neighborhoods Magazine – The Neighborhoods Magazine was produced and distributed citywide from 1998 to 2006. This magazine won numerous national rewards and was enjoyed by community. After perusing a copy or two, you can see what a valuable tool this can be for the City of Jacksonville. The magazine informed and educated the community of their local government, services provided by the city, and provided a vast array of information about all of the communities in our city. All of the communities have expressed how their desire to have the magazine back. COJ employee, Dave Roman, was the former editor in chief for the Neighborhoods Magazine and he has agreed to attend the January 20, 2014 meeting to answer questions about the production of the meeting, associated costs and possible ideas to make this magazine financially self-sustaining. I have borrowed a few old copies of the Neighborhoods Magazine for you to review. I do need to return the copies to the Neighborhood Association that I borrowed the magazines from; they truly treasure the magazines.

Seeds of Change – The Seeds of Change initiative was designed to partner City-sponsored programs and City Hall with neighborhoods associations, business associations, community and faith based leaders to create meaningful, measurable and visible change in neighborhoods. This initiative was funded in 2006 and lost funding in 2007. The initiative consisted of three primary areas: Beautification and Infrastructure, Public Safety and Homeowner Investment. Overall, the program had a similar goal as the Urban Blight campaign, but one component that was different and well received was the community involvement. Staff and the various neighborhoods identified and worked on this as a team. There were a number of positive outcomes from Seeds of Changes and the community members appreciated their input and involvement.

Mayor's Neighborhood Matching Grants – The matching grant program started in 1996 and lost funding in 2007. Communities could annually apply for grant monies up to \$5000 for physical improvement projects in their communities. The funds awarded were linked to the funds, donations and sweat equity that a neighborhood could match. During the 10 years that the Mayor's Neighborhood Matching Grants were in place, the grants funded 567 projects or programs for a total of \$2,427,723. Including the communities matches, that is more than \$4.87 million worth of improvements to communities citywide.

CommUniverCity – The CommUniverCity was a multi-week leadership training course that was offered to potential community leaders citywide. The goal of CommUniverCity was to teach skills that would establish and maintain successful neighborhood organizations. Some of the topics that were taught at previous CommUniverCity classes were: 1) How to run a meeting, 2) Leadership styles and personal development, 3) Team building, 4) How to create a flyer or newsletter, 5) How to make a presentation, 6) Local Government structure, 7) Land Use and Zoning, 8) Networking, 9) Crime Prevention, 10) Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Studies, 11) ShAdCo, 12) Roberts Rules of Order, 13) Cultural Diversity and 14) take a bus tour. The bus tour provided a visual experience for the participants to see what other areas of Jacksonville are concerned with and how their neighborhood addressed the issues.

The Neighborhood Initiative Team is looking forward to the January 20th meeting. We are honored to have the opportunity to share our wish list to the subcommittee.

Thank you for this opportunity.