

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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

**NEIGHBORBOOD BLIGHT MEETING MINUTES**

**January 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, Bill Gulliford Warren Jones, and Jim Love

**Excused:** Council Member Bill Bishop

**Also**: Cleveland Ferguson – Mayor’s Office; Paige Johnston and Cherry Shaw – 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 Gulliford called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

The meeting began with introductions from the committee and attendees. CM Lee stated the committee will begin convening bi-weekly and utilizing a combined agenda from both Neighborhood and Land Blight meetings.

**Minutes**

Motion/2nd Move to approve November 19th –Gulliford/Crescimbeni (6-0)

**Neighborhood Blight**

1. Continuation of CDC Organizational Profiles – Dayatra Coles

Ms. Coles presented a revised CDC Fee Summary list that displayed inventory and outstanding fees for each organization. CDCs with outstanding fees have submitted the appropriate paperwork for reduction of the administrative fine(s). Ms. Scott explained the process for reduction and release of liens. Administrative liens may be released after property has been determined in compliance. Code Enforcement recommends the adjustment amount of an administrative lien based on the matrix within the established lien reduction policy. Office of General Counsel reviews and confirms the recommendation. It should be noted that demolition and nuisance liens cannot be reduced because tax dollars have been utilized towards compliance of the property. Property that is acquired by donation from the City should be received without prior liens.

1. Community Development Coalition Corporation (CDCC) – no outstanding fees.
2. Grace and Truth CDC (GTCDC) – outstanding fees total $243,094.55.
3. Habitat for Humanity Jacksonville, Inc. – outstanding fees total $808,922.40. It was reported the property at 1236 Tyler Street has environmental issues and schedule for demolition in near future.
4. Helpful Citizens, Inc. (HCI) – outstanding fees total $88,471.82.
5. Metro North CDC (MNCDC) – no outstanding fees.
6. Northwest Jacksonville CDC (NJCDC) – outstanding fees total $623,502.91. It was reported NJCDC will be transferring the tax deed for 1914 Redell Street to JCC.
7. Operation New Hope (ONH) – chart shows a zero balance; however, outstanding fees total $469,191.01.
8. Wealth Watchers (WW) – no outstanding fees.

CM Gulliford would like for the CDCs to come to next subcommittee on Neighborhood Organizations.

*Assignments*:

* Ms. Coles – make corrections to chart and resubmit at next meeting.
1. Add column depicting type of lien and check (√) if lien has been satisfied
2. Add column that shows how property was acquired and date
3. Add column that list issues with each property (Environmental issues, etc.)
* CDCs – adhere to thirty day deadline to clear outstanding fees
1. Submit top ten issues in coverage areas (next meeting)
* Housing and Community Development Division – provide a map of all coverage areas (next meeting); and a status update on CDC Fee Summary List in 30 days
* Ms. Coles – provide contact information for all the CDCs to CM Gulliford’s Office
1. Car Wash Report – CM Crescimbeni

CM Crescimbeni presented the committee with a draft to revise the current car wash legislation. The draft creates three well defined definitions: automated car wash, auto laundry and manual car washes. Additionally, there will be a change regarding what is considered by right or exception in four zoning districts; and temporary one day fundraising events (not to exceed six (6) events per year) by civic, religious or non-profit entities by hand are permitted. CM Crescimbeni requested a formal legal opinion regarding grandfather opportunities of established manual car washes.

Motion/2nd amend to add definition of mobile detailing in commercial zones – Crescimbeni/Jones (6-0)

Motion/2nd move as amended – Jones/Gulliford – (6-0)

*Assignment*:

* Ms. Shaw –provide legal opinion

**Land Blight**

1. Tire Buyback Status – Jim Robinson

Mr. Robinson suggested separating snipes signs from the tire buyback event. One of the major concerns was the upcoming election. After discussion, the committee suggested changing the date to Saturday, March 28th or the first available Saturday thereafter.

*Assignment*:

* Mr. Robinson – confirm date with SMG
1. Public Awareness Update – Paul Martinez and Aleizha Batson

Mr. Martinez suggested using the posters from last year’s Tire & Sign Buyback posters. The committee was in agreement with using last year’s commercial and posters. The Fight Blight kick-off and press conference will be February 10th at 1:00p.m., on the steps of City Hall. The kick-off will showcase the mascot, JTA bus, trade show booth and “naming” contest for Jacksonville youth. The PSAs and distribution of posters will follow press conference. It was suggested subcommittee consider partnering with the Supervisor of Elections Office to offer education on elections/voting and civic responsibility prior to selecting the final mascot name.

*Assignment*:

* Mr. Martinez – inquire with mascot manufacturer about adding “fight” and “blight” on gloves

**New Business**

JSO Inmate Crews – CM Crescimbeni

CM Crescimbeni reported that Public Works Department was informed by JSO in November that inmate labor would no longer be provided for City drainage detail within one mile of 30 designated areas. Chief Ivey requested an electronic copy of the map depicting the areas. He will inquire about policy change and report at next meeting.

**Items for Next Meeting**

Maps depicting CDC coverage areas – Calvin Burney

Best Practices & Procedures for building Neighborhood Organizations – Elaine Spencer

List of problem areas in CDC coverage area – Dayatra Coles

**Public Comments**

No public comments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

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

Posted 01.23.15 1:30 p.m.