

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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

**NEIGHBORBOOD BLIGHT MEETING MINUTES**

**April 15, 2015**

**10:00 a.m.**

**City Hall**

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

**Lynwood Roberts Room**

**Attendance:** Council Members Denise Lee (arr.10:16a), Greg Anderson, John Crescimbeni (arr. 11:11a), Warren Jones, Jim Love (arr. 11:15a)

**Excused:** Council Members Bill Bishop and Bill Gulliford

**Also**: Cleveland Ferguson – Mayor’s Office; Cherry Shaw – General Counsel’s Office; Jim Robinson – Public Works Department; Folks Huxford and Elaine Spencer – Planning & Development Department; 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 Vice President Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

The meeting began with introductions from the committee and attendees.

**Neighborhood Blight**

1. Solutions to minimize excessive collections – Jeff Foster

Six (6) potential solutions were presented to committee to address seasonal demands regarding yard waste and garbage collection. Mr. Foster explained that revisiting the 5 cubic yard limit on yard waste; and modifying current waste hauler contracts for compensation for more equipment and manpower would require a mutually agreement of the hauler contracts. The most cost effective solution would be revisiting the 5 cubic yard limit on yard waste collection during the seasonal months. Within the current policy, if residents have yard waste that exceeds the 5 cubic yard limit, it can be completely picked up for a fee. Otherwise, particularly during seasonal months, haulers only pick up the required limit and the remainder is left until the next scheduled collection day for that premises. Mr. Robinson commented during non-seasonal months, haulers typically pick up all yard waste at a premise especially when it is only a little over the limit.

There was discussion regarding legislation language for modifying hauler contracts to allow additional compensation and increase of cubic yard limit for a specified three month period as determined by the Solid Waste Division to minimize the excessive missed seasonal collections.

*Assignment:*

Jeff Foster – provide additional language for legislation for modifying hauler contracts as it relates to yard waste collection during seasonal months; and provide the estimated cost along with in other related information for this process

1. Process to educate citizens about recyclable items – Jeff Foster

The solid waste brochure is distributed annually to COJ residential premises subject to the solid waste user fee. The new brochure is in process of being updated with recommendations from various committees and other relevant information regarding types of waste, recyclable items, collections, policies and procedures. The brochure is expected to be prepared for distribution within the next two months.

 *Assignment:*

Jeff Foster – provide copy of the previous brochure and draft of the new brochure at next meeting

1. Crime Report – Chief Pat Ivey

Chief Ivey reviewed statistical analysis maps depicting a 1500 feet radius from 13th Street & Moncrief Road comparing 3/28/13 – 3/27/14 to 4/13/14 – 4/14/15. The comparison showed a 28% decrease in the number of priority incidents in targeted area. Surveillance cameras and CPR teams are contributed to some of the reduction of crime in the area. Although community partnerships are working, there is still a need for more cooperation with citizens and businesses. The 2012-2014 top hot spots with the largest number of incidents within 1500 square feet are Canterbury Gardens and Mathews Crossing. After review of maps, dialogue included possible methods necessary from JSO and the City to continue to combat the crime in targeted areas. One of the suggestions included providing quarterly monitoring of businesses utilizing the loitering signs.

Chief Ivey explained that dispatchers must prioritize calls for service in response to Ms. Hightower commenting that her request for service took 20 minutes. The request was for an officer to the Raceway at Golfair Blvd & Stuart Street. She was concerned about the excessive amount of cars in the parking lot. Unfortunately, JSO’s current average response time for a priority one call is over eight (8) minutes which is primarily due to the shortage of staff. Chief Ivey acknowledged Ms. Hightower’s concerns and explained her request was not important; however, another call at the same time involving an active violent crime would that precedence.

There was extensive discussion regarding hot spots; unmet safety standards of apartment complexes receiving federal funds; lack of cooperation of property owners; process for abatement of payment and possible safety impact fee for excessive use of police services. In an effort to address complexes listed as hot spots and encourage the owner/management to comply, a subcommittee was established to review, investigate and recommend legislation for possible safety impact fee on multi-family dwellings and businesses that have excessive calls of service due to drugs and crime. Additionally, subcommittee will consider communication with federal HUD to recommend withholding payment to complexes until safety measures are improved.

Chief Ivey announced that ShadCo was sponsoring a Safety Fair at Regency Mall on Saturday, April 18th to increase membership.

*Assignments:*

Cleveland Ferguson (observation), Folks Huxford & Elaine Spencer – work with Chief Ivey provide a list of the neighborhood organizations that area present; and determine where new community organization are needed within the 1500 feet diameter of 13th Street & Moncrief Road

Chief Ivey – 1) provide report on monitoring businesses with loitering signs; 2) invite JSO ShadCo Coordinator to next meeting; 3) provide recommendations for action in addressing the Golfair Blvd & Stuart Street issue; 4) provide goals and objectives to address human blight in target areas by December 1st; 5) research JSO system for any calls from the store regarding loitering on Easter Sunday;

Elaine Spencer – provide copy of HUD safety standards for Multifamily Section 8 Housing; contact Lincoln Court complex owner and request him attend meeting in two weeks

CM Crescimbeni – appointed to chair Safety Impact Fee subcommittee;

Mr. Van Dyke Walker – follow up with Chief Ivey to discuss JTA issues regarding loitering and other concerns at bus stops

1. Snipe Sign – CM Crescimbeni

CM Crescimbeni provided a brief summary of the subcommittee’s recommendations. The first offense fine will remain $50 for any number of snipe signs for the sake of simplicity. CM Crescimbeni agreed to attend TEU’s meeting next Monday in hopes of satisfying their concerns with Blight Committee’s new recommendations.

**Minutes**

Motion/2nd move to approve April 8th minutes – Crescimbeni/Jones (5-0)

**New Business - Topics**

None

**Next Week’s Agenda**

Land Blight topics

**Public Comments**

Mr. Mark Anino suggested committee members consider JSO’s response time during the next budget cycle. He commended Mr. Robinson in promptly getting the plumbing issue repaired at Highlands Library; and inquired about residents being able to obtain multiple garbage containers.

Mr. Carnell Oliver suggested the creation of programs for youth in low income communities to address the crime rate.

Ms. Ola Williams shared her church has attempted several times to acquire a foreclosed property near the church to no avail. She requested any assistance with helping church obtain property. *(Mr. Jim Robinson, Kimberly Scott and Cherry Shaw requested to work with Ms. Williams).*

Ms. Thompson expressed appreciation of removal of trailer and old theaters in Riverview area.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Yvonne P. Mitchell, 630-1679

04.16.15 5:30p.m.