

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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

**NEIGHBORBOOD BLIGHT MEETING MINUTES**

**April 29, 2015**

**10:00 a.m.**

**City Hall**

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

**Lynwood Roberts Room**

**Attendance:** Council Members Denise E. Lee, Chair (arr. 10:19), John Crescimbeni, Warren Jones, Jim Love

**Excused:** Council Members Bill Bishop

**Also**: Cleveland Ferguson – Mayor’s Office; Paige Johnston – General Counsel’s Office; Jim Robinson – Public Works Department; Folks Huxford– Planning & Development Department; Kimberly Scott – Regulatory Compliance Department; Dan Macdonald – ECA Dist. 8; Chief Ivey – Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office; Robert Campbell – Office of Council Auditor’s; Yvonne Mitchell – Council Research Division

See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

Council Member Crescimbeni called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

The meeting began with introductions from the committee and attendees.

**Minutes**

Motion/2nd move to approve April 22nd minutes – Crescimbeni/Love (4-0)

**Neighborhood Blight**

1. Draft of Land Registry Ordinance – Paige Johnston & Caleena Shirley

Ms. Johnston reviewed the changes between Ordinance 2010-327-E and the proposed legislation. The two major changes include the increase of the registration fee; and addition of an annual renewal fee. Ms. Shirley provided an overview of the three fund strategies and percentages. CM Jones commented the proposed legislation is consistent with other municipalities and is ready for introduction.

Motion/2nd approve to introduce bill at next Council meeting – Jones/Crescimbeni (4-0)

1. Crime Report Update – Chief Pat Ivey

**Monitoring of Loitering Signs**

All businesses on Myrtle Avenue between Kings Road and Golfair Blvd were contacted by JSO, a year ago, regarding “No Loitering” signs. Currently, approximately 98% of the businesses in the area are in compliance. There are five businesses without the “No Loitering” signs:

* Price Rite - 3528 Moncrief Road (previously had sign posted)
* Unknown Business Name – 3219 Myrtle Avenue
* Fosci – 3108 Myrtle Avenue
* Credit Union – 2212 Myrtle Avenue (previously had sign posted)
* Unknown Business Name -1801 Myrtle Avenue

There has been communication and each business is expected to have signs up soon.

**Raceway at Golfair Blvd & Stuart Street**

JSO has a new initiative called “The Golfair Project” which intends to focus on the activity at the Raceway Gas Station and Metro Inn. Chief Ivey reported his findings regarding Easter Sunday, April 5th at the Raceway. There were three calls of service from two separate callers. Although store management claimed to have called JSO, no calls were received from Raceway. However, a week later on April 11th, Mr. Pekland, store manager, made one call about loud music. On April 18th, Mr. Pekland called and reported a group of people in lot.

In preparing for the new initiative, an analysis was completed and determined that alcohol is a huge contributor to the activity in the area. The Metro Inn only accepts cash and utilizes a certain number of rooms a night. JSO will attempt to get cooperation from the entities. In a year’s time, there have been over two hundred and seventy calls for service between the two businesses. The owner of Raceway is listed as LML Associates, LLC, in Altamonte Springs.

**Goals and Objectives**

Operation Cease Fire begins April 29, 2015. Funds have been reallocated to focus on certain sections in the hot spot areas. The first phase is education to include door-to-door operation. The Sheriff will hold a press conference next week to discuss his goals and announce other initiatives in addressing the crime rate. With ongoing and upcoming initiatives, Chief Ivey stated one goal is to reduce the overall crime rate by 3% by the end of December. CM Lee suggested that a listing of alternative education opportunities, job programs, etc. be passed out during the door-to-door operation.

**13th & Moncrief Road – Mr. Tutwiler**

The owner of the business and adjacent houses at 13th Street & Moncrief Road and Mr. Tutwiler are in negations for the sale of the properties for redevelopment purposes. Mr. Tutwiler reported the owner initiated the discussion a week ago. CM Lee stated the foreclosure process is still ongoing.

**ShadCo**

Mr. Gary Dickerson provided an overview of ShadCo’s program. There are 19 active ShadCos that meet monthly. Each one has a chair and co-chair elected by the membership. ShadCo does a lot of community outreach. The current membership is about 3,000. Applicants for membership must pass a criminal background check.

There was extensive discussion regarding outreach methods to promote community engagement and recruitment. It was mentioned that ShadCo and CPACs should combine meetings at least quarterly to work together against neighborhood issues. The committee provided several suggestions to spread the word about ShadCos to include, but not limited to:

* enlarge access on webpage
* send direct mail out to citizens according to sectors
* inquire with JEA about line notice on bills
* check JSO victim pamphlet to ensure information is included
* add link on Property Appraiser Office webpage
* distributing information at early polling sites in conjunction with Supervisor of Elections
* utilize forfeiture funds for publications

CM Lee will notice a meeting to follow up on this issue to help reduce crime in the community. She requested that ShadCo, Planning and Development Department, JEA, JTA and the City’s representative over CPACs are in attendance.

*Assignments:*

Chief Ivey

* draft letter to the store owner about concerns and include criminal activity (letter will come from Sheriff and Blight committee)
* provide statistics on how many people arrested between 16yo – 30yo have graduated from high school in past year
* provide camera update (how many cameras in hot spot areas; statistics on any arrests, etc.)
* provide illegal dumping update

Gary Dickerson

* provide list and boundaries of ShadCos;
* provide tools utilized to invite community to meetings (bring copy of standard letter)
* provide a listing of all ShadCo meetings held between January 1, 2011 to March 2015; include where were meetings held and attendance roster
* provide maps to show geographic area of ShadCos
* provide list of activities ShadCos participate in

Dan Macdonald

* contact committee members to schedule meeting during the second week in May
* coordinate with Mr. Dickerson

Planning & Development Department

* provide number of members in CPACs

Paige Johnston

* draft letter to local HUD requesting attendance at next meeting

**Next Week’s Agenda**

Recycling pamphlet

Tornado and trash pickup report

**Public Comment**

Mr. Larry Spears felt the City was doing a great job with addressing the community’s needs. He agreed to discuss with his field office about HUD distributing ShadCo information. In response to CM Jones request, Mr. Spears agreed to coordinate with the appropriate officials.

Mr. Tutwiler commented there should be more proactive engagement and understanding of the comprehensive nature of community development. He stated there must be planning to strategize ways to address the challenges facing the community.

Mr. Ysryl commented that job training and economic development are directly related to resolving some of the issues with crime. He stated that training can change lives.

Ms. Eunice Barnum made comments regarding everyone working together in the community; gun violence; funding for community lawn service; and police tenure. She referenced the longevity of Jacksonville Youth Works and the need for City to find funding to assist the program.

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

Yvonne P. Mitchell, 630-1679

05.01.15 5:00p.m.