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|  | **OFFICE OF THE**  **CITY COUNCIL** |  |
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**SPECIAL AD HOC COMMITTEE ON JACKSONVILLE’S**

**NEIGHBORBOOD IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**August 17, 2015**

**4:00 p.m.**

**City Hall**

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

**Council Chambers**

**Attendance:** Council Members Garrett Dennis (Chair), John Crescimbeni, Bill Gulliford, Tommy Hazouri, Al Ferraro, and Joyce Morgan

**Also**: Council Vice President Lori Boyer and Council Member Sam Newby; Paige Johnston – General Counsel’s Office; Rupal Wells – ECA Dist. 8; Darren Mason – ECA Dist. 1; Jenny Busby – ECA AL 3; Robert Campbell – Office of Council Auditor’s; Latanya Peterson – Mayor’s Office; Crystal Shemwell - Legislative Services Division; Yvonne P. Mitchell – Council Research Division

See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

Council Member Dennis called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The meeting began with introductions of committee.

**Update from Administration**

Ms. Kerri Stewart explained that administration requests the committee approve 2015-322. This bill establishes the guidelines for the next three years as to how Affordable Housing Assistance program funds will be allocated. It should be noted no funds will be moved through this bill. The Jacksonville Housing and Community Development Commission consists of 11 members, six of whom are appointed by the mayor and confirmed by City Council and five of whom are appointed by the Council. After hearing concerns from Council Members Crescimbeni and Morgan regarding Commission meetings and lack thereof, communication and last minute notifications, Ms. Stewart shared that filling the vacancies would assist in resolving some the concerns. Currently, the Council has four vacancies and the Mayor has two vacancies.

Motion/2nd move the recommendation to approve 2015-322 – Gulliford/Hazouri (6-0)

**Action:** The committee passed the recommendation to approve and adopt 2015-322.

**Subcommittee Updates**

**1. 2015-519 Residential Donations**

The draft property donation policy distributed includes suggestions from the Finance Committee meeting held earlier on this date. CM Gulliford stated the legislation was deferred in Finance Committee due to the listed priorities in the policy. The policy assists with the methodology to handling the excess properties. The properties referenced are abandoned residential properties with structures onsite, buildable lots and non-buildable lots. One of the concerns is how agencies are prioritized or ranked to determine who receives the donated property. The policy increases the donation threshold from $25,000 to $50,000.

**Assignment:** Council Members Boyer, Gulliford and Crescimbeni will hold a notice meeting to review guidelines and scoring criteria; and provide a status update at next meeting.

**2. Land Bank/Lazy Assets**

CM Gulliford reported the planned meeting with DuPont was postponed. He stated that a community meeting will need to be held prior to the scheduling the next meeting in October. Also, zombie properties need to be rolled into future discussions. CM Boyer commented that guidelines were needed to differentiate commercial and residential properties that may be in the land bank. CM Gulliford has a meeting with a representative from Washington, DC with a program named Hope Now. The organization is focused on similar topics and may provide a different perspective.

**Action:** CM Gulliford will lead the subcommittee.

**Assignment:** CM Gulliford will provide a report from the meeting with Hope Now representative.

**3. 2014-553 (Snipe Signs)**

CM Crescimbeni stated subcommittee was unable to meet due to conflicting schedules.

The committee engaged in an extensive discussion regarding the enforcement of snipe signs during public comment. There were several suggestions offered to address the excessive violation of signs. Mr. Prado reported that the weekend code officers do focus on the Arlington/Regency area picking up signs on Saturday mornings. It was suggested to change the work hours of weekend code officers to catch violators during the peak hours; or obtaining the license plate number of those people putting out the signs. Mr. Prado will work on a plan/schedule for the committee to implement Operation Snipe Patrol in an effort to stop violators.

**Action:** Committee will meet next Monday, August 17th.

**Assignment:**

* Ms. Peterson willinquire with administration regarding blight initiative funds being used toward advertisements against snipe signs.
* The subcommittee was requested to report back at next meeting.
* Mr. Prado will make arrangements for Operation Snipe Patrol in the Arlington/Regency area.

**4. 2015-361 (Vehicle Requirements) & 2015-377 (Back end cars)**

CM Crescimbeni provided statistical information received from 630-CITY regarding complaints related to junk cars, covered cars, and parking on public right-of-way. In 2014, 630-CITY received 3665 complaints related to junk/covered cars. To date in 2015, the number of car complaints received is 4900 of which 4580 were specific to junk cars. In addition, the number of junk car complaints was provided according to each Council District.

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| District | # of Junk Car Complaints |
| 1 | 426 |
| 2 | 156 |
| 3 | 88 |
| 4 | 207 |
| 5 | 214 |
| 6 | 138 |
| 7 | 576 |
| 8 | 28 |
| 9 | 807 |
| 10 | 913 |
| 11 | 30 |
| 12 | 260 |
| 13 | 21 |
| 14 | 243 |

Research Division researched six municipalities in regards to handling back end and covered vehicles. With the exception of St. Petersburg’s regulations for car covers, none of the other municipalities have a written ordinance. In response to CM Dennis’ question, Mr. Robert Campbell stated the financial impact of the addressing covered cars is better implied once it has been determined which division will handle enforcement. Likewise with snipe signs, with additional revenue from increased fines will allow for extended hours and hire additional staff.

**Action:** Committee will meet next Monday, August 17th.

**Assignment:** The subcommittee will provide a status report at next meeting.

**5. Update from Administration**

No report provided.

**Public Comments**

Mr. Scott Lara held up a couple of “we buy houses” signs and encouraged the committee to take action on snipe signs.

Ms. Doretha Tompkins commended Municipal Code Enforcement for picking up snipe signs. She also commented about the

Ms. Gregory inquired about the number of personnel in Animal Control. She called and reported a dead animal in the road and was told a pickup service would take a week due to one employee.

All subcommittees are expected to provide a report at the next meeting which is scheduled for 8/31 in Council Chambers at 4:00p.m.

There being no public comment or further business, meeting was adjourned at 5:33p.m.

Yvonne P. Mitchell, Council Research Division

08.19.15 Posted 5:15p.m.