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

**NEIGHBORBOOD IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**August 31, 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; Council Members Reggie Brown Doyle Carter; Paige Johnston, Peggy Sidman and Cherry Pollock – General Counsel’s Office; Rupal Wells – ECA Dist. 8; Terrance Freeman – ECA Dist. 3; Jenny Busby – ECA AL 3; Robert Campbell – Office of Council Auditor’s; E. Denise Lee and 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 4:06 p.m. The meeting began with introductions of committee.

**Subcommittee Reports**

**1. 2014-553 (Snipe Signs)**

The snipe sign subcommittee met on Monday, August 24, 2015. CM Crescimbeni briefed the committee on the discussion and recommended amendment to modify the original increased fee structure to insert a tiered cost of $50 per sign for the first five (5) signs posted on a single date in a twelve month period. An additional amendment was presented to correct scrivener errors.

Mr. Prado reviewed the statistics provided by Mr. Mosier regarding individuals that received less than five (5) citations. During this discussion, various questions were asked in reference to the breakdown of type of businesses in the overall category,

Mr. Prado stated the weekend officers collected over 263 snipe signs in the early hours of Saturday morning in the Greater Arlington area. The details on the signs did not produce the necessary details to cite an individual or business. The division will work with OGC to maintain a subpoena on the Google numbers to get identifying information to complete citations. In response to CM Dennis request, Chief Derrick Lewis stated he and Undersheriff Ivey had discussed the suggestion; however, that the utilization of surveillance cameras to assist in capturing snipe sign violators was not cost effective when considering location and positioning necessary for the cameras to be productive. Additionally, Chief Lewis provided brief comments about disposable phones being extremely difficult to track since there is no identification required during purchase.

There was extensive discussion pertaining to the actual enforcement authority of Municipal Code; and the process of contacting the business owner. The compliance officers are authorized to write citations. If an individual was caught putting out snipe signs, the officer can only request the name and address to write citation. There is no other authority of action to take other than attempting to get vehicle tag number. Mr. Prado stated enforcement opportunities include writing citations; filing a law suit or an injunction with contact information. He stated Municipal Code support the increase in the fees because for some businesses, the few thousand they spend is the cost of doing business.

It was suggested to use one of the City’s properties to sale through the numbers used to make contact and issue citation. Several Council members contacted the number on the snipe sign presented by Mr. Lara. This particular sign was collected by Mr. Lara and Municipal Code on Saturday, August 29, 2015. Mr. Prado commented approximately 100 signs were collected. The representative from “We Buy Houses” answered and stated their Jacksonville Office is located at 6821 Southpoint Drive, Suite 121. Additionally, information regarding the process to sale a customer’s home was provided.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. William Nussbaum shared that he picks up snipe signs regularly in the Avondale/Murray Hill area. He stated that low numbers in citations is based on the inability of Code Enforcement to reach violators due to use of disposable phones. Mr. Nussbaum supports the increase in fines to impact business violators.

Ms. Nancy Garcia requested that the fee structure for the first few signs is maintained at a low amount. Additionally, she had concerns regarding the Municipal Code statistics and how the “business” category is divided into smaller entities.

Mr. Scott Lara encouraged the committee and general counsel to take action in regards to violators. He reported collecting over 20 snipe signs over the weekend in the Monument Road and I-295 area.

**Assignments:**

* Mr. Prado will submit a list of the names of every citation written.
* Mrs. Pollock will request an opinion regarding robo calls violating the Federal Communications Law from Mr. Jason Gabriel, General Counsel. CM Crescimbeni requests that Mr. Gabriel contact St. Petersburg’s attorney prior to rendering his opinion. It should be noted that St. Petersburg has a robo call system. CM Crescimbeni requested opinion is presented before the next committee meeting.
* Ms. Peggy Sidman will draft language for exemption for temporary signage in right-of-way for governmental entities for purposes of public health issues.

**Action:** The committee approved and recommended the snipe sign amendments as a substitute to the pending legislation.

**2. 2015-519 Residential Donations**

CM Gulliford stated the subcommittee is awaiting answers from the Housing and Neighborhood Division that will address some concerns about the policy attached to legislation. A status report will be provided after the subcommittee next meeting.

**3. 2015-361 (Vehicle Requirements) & 2015-377 (Back end cars)**

Mr. Paul Crawford explained that Ordinance 2012-269-E, in Chapter 804.79 (B) is currently unenforceable per Florida State Statutes. CM Reggie Brown, OGC and Mr. Crawford are working to amend Chapter 609 (Civil Citations) by adding the section from Chapter 804.79 which will allow the Parking Department the authority to enforce the Code. General Counsel will submit an opinion within two weeks to ensure compliance with Florida Statutes. Mr. Jack Shad stated the primary resource will be training of the current ten (10) parking specialist. The Parking Department will only handle complaints of vehicles that are parked on public property and are covered. Junk vehicle on private property complaints will continue to be handled by Municipal Code Compliance.

**Assignment:** CM R. Brown will provide a status update in two weeks.

**Update from Administration**

Director Lee reported that FDOT and Public Works met to discuss right-of-ways and contractual agreements regarding primary roads. She is working on a maintenance initiative between the City and FDOT to cover smaller properties being serviced next to larger adjacent properties. Administration has established the Blight to Beauty Committee which includes citizens. The committee will address short and long term goals regarding blight along the development of a Blight manual.

CM R. Brown requested to be included in the process with the Blight to Beauty Committee meetings. His list of processes to be addressed by the committee includes multiple offenders and reducing mowing cycle; loitering; Certificate of Needs; and approval of liquor stores.

**Assignments:**

Ms. Lee will schedule meeting with CM Brown.

Ms. Lee will provide a presentation to the NICE committee during the next cycle.

**Public Comments**

Tracy Thornton distributed information regarding arts in the community as a resolution to blight and violence. She encouraged the committee to review materials and consider implementing more art events to engage citizens in having pride for their community.

There being no public comment or further business, meeting was adjourned at 5:44p.m.

Yvonne P. Mitchell, Council Research Division

09.02.15 Posted 6:00p.m.