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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**

**September 14, 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 Member Reggie Brown; Paige Johnston and Cherry Pollock – General Counsel’s Office; Rupal Wells – ECA Dist. 8; Robert Campbell – Office of Council Auditor’s; E. Denise Lee and Latanya Peterson – Mayor’s Office; Crystal Shemwell - Legislative Services Division

See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

Council Member Dennis called the meeting to order. The meeting began with introductions of committee.

**Subcommittee Reports**

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

CM Crescimbeni reported the Finance Committee adopted the NICE Committee amendments with one additional amendment that will exempt governmental entities to utilize signs for public health safety.

Ms. Cherry Pollock presented and reviewed the legal opinion from the Office of General Counsel dated September 14, 2015. She spoke with Kurt Schroeder, Chief of Consumer Policy Division for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC); John Wolfe, St. Petersburg City Attorney; and Todd Yost, St. Petersburg Code Enforcement Director. Mr. Schroeder confirmed the Robocall system is a violation of Florida Statutes. St. Petersburg determined, after some experience, that robocalling was ineffective and expensive; and no longer utilizes the service. The OGC concludes that the City not use the robocalling system as an enforcement tool towards snipe signs due to the high exposure of litigation and liability.

There was extensive discussion regarding Municipal Code Compliance Division’s investigative process as it relates to making contact with businesses. During the last NICE meeting, CM Hazouri provided location information for a business associated with snipe signs. In response to CM Crescimbeni’s question, Mr. Devron Cody stated an attempt was made on 9/1/15 to contact someone at the business; however, it was closed. There have been no other attempts at the location. Director E. Denise Lee requested time to address the situation and provide a report to committee at the next meeting.

**Assignments:**

Mrs. Pollock will inquire about the process to challenge the Federal law advanced by Administrative Code/Rule.

Mrs. Pollock will research whether Federal law can restrict municipalities in regards to legislation and implied consent.

CM R. Brown and Mrs. Pollock will work together and contact Florida League of Cities.

Ms. Paige Johnston will research state statutes to determine a possible connection between illegal dumping and snipe signs.

Ms. Kimberly Scott will keep committee members abreast of all progress taken within the next couple of weeks.

Director E. Denise Lee and Ms. Kimberly Scott will follow up with MCCD and provide an update at next meeting.

MCCD expected to follow up on new snipe sign information provided by CM Hazouri.

**Action:** None

**2. 2015-361 (Vehicle Requirements) & 2015-377 (Back end cars)**

Mr. Paul Crawford shared the possible resolution for storage of vehicles, addressing visibility of license tag, and the intentional obstruction of vehicles on private property. It is suggested to withdraw 2015-377 and amend 2015-361 to change violation type to a civil citation and not excluded by state statues. This will give Parking Department the authority to write citations. Due to various questions and concerns, CM Gulliford offered a motion to table the discussion to next meeting as the primary agenda topic.

**Action:** The committee passed a motion to postpone discussion until next meeting.

**Suggested Topics**

Basketball goals in the street

Reconsideration of meeting room

HOPE NOW – financial workshop regards to abandoned properties (Oct 8th, 1:00p – 3:00p, Lynwood Roberts)

Representation of City departments

**Public Comments**

Mr. Scott Lara expressed his appreciation in the committee addressing snipe signs and holding MCC accountable in making their efforts of due process. He presented two additional signs retrieved from the Southside area.

Mr. Bill Nussbaum encouraged the Office of General Counsel to seek legal litigation against business to obtain information for discovery.

There being no public comment or further business, meeting was adjourned.

Yvonne P. Mitchell, Council Research Division

09.16.15 Posted 6:30p.m.