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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**

**November 16, 2015**

**4:00 p.m.**

**City Hall**

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

**Council Chambers**

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

**Excused**: Joyce Morgan

**Also**: Council Member Reggie Brown; Paige Johnston – General Counsel’s Office; Robert Campbell – Council Auditor’s Office; Jeneen Sanders – ECA AL-1; Alli Korman Shelton and E. Denise Lee – 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 4:03 p.m. The meeting began with introductions of committee.

**Pending Legislation Update**

*2015-519*

This bill pertains to donations of residential housing. Ms. Lawsikia Hodges provided a thorough review and update of the pending legislation. She has several recommendations based upon research findings from 2007 Florida Statutes 166.0451 and 125.379 as it relates to donations for affordable housing. The Real Estate Division, Housing & Neighborhoods Department, and Ms. Hodges are working on the revisions and developing a list of all suitable properties for affordable housing. The bill should be ready for review by the first of December. CM Reggie Brown inquired about the ability to provide donation of properties to individuals for first time home ownership versus nonprofit and profit organizations. The requested increase of property value from $25,000 to $50,000 would allow for a larger area of properties to donate. Additionally, legislation includes vacant lots. CM Crescimbeni recommended that administration develop a comprehensive inventory list of all real estate properties. In addition, there should be a thorough review of the list of properties associated with utilities (water & sewer). He noted that JEA obtained ownership of numerous public utilities properties from the City several years ago; however, the title was never switched to the appropriate name.

Currently, the Code provides for nonprofit organization receiving donated property from the City to have 12 months to complete development. The proposed revision will allow 18 months for construction prior to the City enforcing reversion rights. There was extensive discussion regarding the forgiveness of liens/fees from donated property. There are three types of liens: nuisance, administration and demolition. It was suggested that some type of consideration to reimburse divisions or departments for services rendered on properties with nuisance and demolition liens before granting forgiveness.

*Assignment:*

Lawsikia Hodges – provide update on legislation in December

Alli Korman Shelton *–* provide CM Hazouri a copy of all leased properties; provide a report to committee in December or January, if administration plans to pursue PAMO.

Mary Kay O’Rourke – provide a list of donated properties with liens that were not forgiven

**Donation Bins**

Mr. Jason Teal distributed a copy of Orange County Ordinance on donation bins. The lawsuit is in settlement discussions which prevent him from providing specifics. The intent is to draft legislation for the City to regulate donations bins versus a complete ban. December 15th is the deadline to submit a status report with the federal court. Mr. Teal intends to file the legislation prior to the deadline to report to the judge. The draft will follow normal committee rotation to allow Council members opportunity to amend. The expectation is to include the regulation of donation bins in the Zoning Code.

The committee voiced several concerns related to capping number of permits; distance of bin to public street; identification of bin; excluding for profit entities; zoning districts, unsightly bins; staffing, COUs, and rescinding the original ordinance.

**2015-565**

The committee discussed the responsibility of printing, posting, and enforcement of the signs. The legislation does not have necessary logistics worked out and prevents it from forward action. It was suggested that CM Love be notified of recommendation.

Motion/2nd recommend to withdraw – Hazouri/Ferraro (5-0)

**Update from Administration**

Director Lee informed the committee that administration is discussing enforcement of COUs and a resolution is forthcoming.

**Public Comments**

Mary Kay O’Rourke presented a map of New Town Impact Area. She encouraged the committee to consider donating the abandoned/condemned properties to allow improvement and growth in the neighborhood.

Tracey Thornton expressed her concern for the lack of attention and effort in certain areas. She wants the committee to take a more proactive approach to resolving blighted issues. She presented a list of seventy-four (74) C.A.R.E issues.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 5:47p.m.

Yvonne P. Mitchell, Council Research Division

Posted 11.17.15 5:00p.m.