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|  | **OFFICE OF THE** **CITY COUNCIL** |  |
| **GARRETT L. DENNIS** |  | SUITE 425, CITY HALL |
| COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 9 |  | 117 WEST DUVAL STREET |
| OFFICE (904) 630-1395 |  | JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202 |
| FAX (904) 630-2906 |  | E-MAIL: GARRETTD@COJ.NET |

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

**NEIGHBORBOOD IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**February 29, 2016**

**4:00 p.m.**

**City Hall**

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

**Lynwood Roberts Room**

**Attendance:** Council Members Garrett Dennis (Chair), Al Ferraro, Joyce Morgan

**Excused:** John Crescimbeni, Bill Gulliford, Tommy Hazouri

**Also**: Paige Johnston – General Counsel’s Office; Robert Campbell – Council Auditor’s Office; Sam Mousa, 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 4:00 p.m. The meeting began with introductions of committee.

**Administration Update**

The committee received a packet which included: 1) a consolidated listing of neighborhood stabilization cleanup; 2) an analysis of Fight Blight budget for current fiscal year; 3) Fire Department Community Outreach Events; 4) prior and upcoming marketing efforts; and 5) timeline of events. Mr. Sam Mousa stated that the consolidated listing was based on actual “hot spot” addresses provided by JSO; and neighborhoods with excessive Code compliance violations. Each area on the list will be canvassed and serviced by Code Enforcement Division, Mowing & Landscape Maintenance Division, and any other appropriate division(s) to address the blight. In response to CM Dennis question, it was stated that the majority of the 305 code violations in the Ribault neighborhood were from the Ken Knight Drive area vs. Washington Heights apartments. The Fight Blight budget will cover part time hours, supplies, and advertising & promotions. Administration is in the process of interviewing for a Blight Educator/Outreach Coordinator. Mr. Mousa shared that JEA is on board and focused on improving neighborhoods. The new street lights have already received positive remarks from residents. Until the project is completed, Mr. Mousa will receive weekly reports regarding the installation of the remaining street lights. Mr. Mousa stressed that reducing crime and cleaning up the neighborhoods is a priority for the Mayor; therefore, every possible effort is being put into place to fight blight.

Mr. Mousa commented that a reorganizational plan has been introduced for the Neighborhoods Department. He noted that the Office of Blight Initiatives will remain a direct report to him. Additionally, Mr. Mousa shared copies of the fight blight digital signs by Clear Channel Outdoor. The people in the signs are actual residents from the neighborhood depicted by the hash tag.

In response to CM Dennis inquiry, Mr. John Pappas stated he was in the process of updating the administration on PAMO. He described PAMO as an all-inclusive review of all city properties to see how to best utilize them. CM Dennis is interested in the administration’s opinion regarding PAMO.

Assignment:

John Pappas – provide copies of previous blight/JSO maps to committee members upon request

**Public Comment**

Ms. Mary Kay O’Rourke requested that committee aggressively search for a funding source to assist with ridding neighborhoods of condemned and abandon structures which negatively impact the value of new and revitalized homes in the area.

**Announcements**

Mr. John Flowe encouraged everyone to come out and volunteer in the 21st St. Johns River Annual Cleanup Celebration. A handout was distributed with the schedule and various cleanup sites listed.

Next meeting will be March 14, 2016 in the Lynwood Roberts room. There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Yvonne P. Mitchell, Council Research Division

Posted 03.01.16 2:30 p.m.