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|  | **OFFICE OF THE**  **CITY COUNCIL** |  |
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**NEIGHBORHOOD BLIGHT AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

March 10, 2014

5 p.m.

**Location:** Don Davis Room, City Hall, 117 West Duval Street.

**In Attendance:** Chair CM E. Denise Lee, CM John Crescimbeni, CM Jim Love, CM Bill Bishop, Dr. CM Johnny Gaffney, Kimberly Scott, Acting Director Regulatory Compliance Department; Jeff Foster, Solid Waste; Kelley Boree, Parks & Recreation Director; Peggy Sidman, Deputy General Counsel; Sgt. David Oliver, JSO; Karen Bowling, Mayor’s Office; Daphne Colbert, Mayor’s Office; Robert Prado, MCC; Angela Spears, Mayor’s Office; Aleizha Batson, PIO; Jim Robinson, Public Works; Lin White, Public Works; Calvin Burney, Planning Director; James Reed, City Planner; Brian Mosier, MCCD; Dave McDaniel, Public Works; Sherry Wilson, Parks & Recreation; Luis Flores, Public Buildings; Aleizha Batson, Public Affairs Office, Kirk Sherman, CAO; Kenny Logsdon, Planning; Terrance Ashanta-Barker, Mayor’s Office; Randy Brewer, JTA; Eric Fuller, COJ SWD; Tim Pugh, JEA; Insook Wallace, ITD; Steve Patterson, Florida Times-Union; Charles Curry, Senior Centers; and Dan Macdonald, ECA District 8.

CM Bill Bishop had an early excusal request.

The meeting convened at 10:15 a.m.

Jim Robinson, Public Works Director gave an update on the mowing division. He said David McDaniel has been named acting division chief. Robinson praised. McDaniel’ experience in the right-of-way and grounds maintenance and his other landscaping experience. The 11 new inspectors will be hired by the end of the month bringing the total to 13.

Daphne Colbert of the Mayor’s Officepresented the newest version of the letter and form to neighborhood organizations. Minor edits concerning the exclusion of boundaries were suggested by the committee.

The CM Jim Love and Bill Bishop subcommittee reported on its meeting. CM Love explained its preliminary plan to write an ordinance calling for a $5 deposit for every new tire that is isn’t accompanied by an old tire that it replaces. Peggy Sidman, Deputy General Counsel said, the state encourages counties to create waste tire collection centers. CM Bishop said that currently residents can place up to four tires on the curb and the city will collect them. This is an expensive practice.

Jeff Foster Solid Waste Chief said the secondary sellers are a cause of much of the illegal tire dumping.

CM Bishop had an early excusal and left at 11:05 a.m.

Kim Scott, Acting Division Chief of Regulatory Compliance, reported on the breakdown of blight categories in the CARE system. She said that her division works with JSO using LexisNexis while the JSO has other software at its disposal that by statue her division is prohibited from using. These programs are used to locate the owner of phone numbers placed on illegal signs.

Ms. Sidman gave a report on the legality of using robocall software to continual call a number found on an illegal sign. She said that harassment is not allowed. However, an educational message can be delivered several times a day during business hours. Ms. Sidman suggested coming up with an education-based recording that is delivered three to four times a day during business hours. Committee Chair E. Denise Lee asked how a company could be taken off the robocall list once it has complied with the law. Ms. Scott said it would be up to the business to inform the city that it is in compliance. Such directions would be part of the educational robocall message. CM Lee asked that a sample script be provided at the next meeting.

Karen Bowling of the Mayor’s Office gave the JTA report saying that bus drivers have a form where they can report damaged bus stops or those in need to trash collection. However on average, only three of these complaint sheets are turned in weekly. The committee agreed that this was a rather low number. The committee asked that the form be re-written to place a greater emphasis on blight. They also wanted to make sure that the form was not so cumbersome that drivers would run late filling them out while at stops. The new emphasis on bus stop blight will be part of the quarterly safety meetings held March 23-April 4.

Paul Martinez Director of Intergovernmental Affairs presented a final draft of the tire buyback poster and asked that it be approved so that it can get out in the community. Some minor changes were suggested. They were made and presented via email after the meeting.

CM Dr. Johnny Gaffney congratulated the JEA for getting involved by placing its own buyback flier in the March utility bills.

Mr. Martinez said that the buyback budget had been reduced because SMG lowered the cost for tis involvement and is providing lunch for the volunteers and workers.

Advertising the event will include all of the city’s social media and a combination of PSAs and paid advertisements. A television PSA featuring the committee will be filmed on March 11.

The meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Packet includes the Minutes, Neighborhood letter, form, and attendance sheet.