MEETING SUMMARY
URBAN CORE DISTRICT CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 14, 1993

Attending the 5:00 pm meeting at the Florida Community College at Jacksonville, Downtown Campus were:

Committee Members

Flossie M. Brunson
Dora Carver
Jimmy Coleman
Bob Crocker
Duane Dumbleton, Ph.D.
Richard Harrill
Jada Jenkins
Laura L. Johnson
Celia A. Miller
Phil Neary
Ann Thompson

City Staff

John H. Crofts
Virgil Green
Randy Hammond
Joel McEachin
Clovia Russell
Nancy Snyder, Ph.D.

Captain Randy Hammond of the Office of the Sheriff went over the crime statistics for the Urban Core District that had been mailed to each member of the committee. The information provided by Captain Hammond also compared violent crime in each of the planning districts for 1980, 1990 and 1992. Other information provided include crime statistics in the Urban Core for the period from January 1, 1993 through September 30, 1993. There were also a juvenile statistical profile, as well as graphics on crime trends.

Mr. Virgil S. Green, Chief of the Mental Health and Welfare Division of the Community Services Department provided the members of the committee with a copy of the report on the state of homelessness in Jacksonville (July, 1993). Mr. Green stated that the opening of the planned Homeless Center on Catherine Street will be of a tremendous service to the community. This 27,000 square foot center is expected to house between 250 and 300 people at any one time. In addition to shelter, showers and meals, the center will provide job and drug counseling, and assist in the move to transitional housing. With the opening of the center, panhandling and loitering laws will be more strictly enforced, particularly in the downtown area.

After these presentations, various members of the committee presented recommendations, both verbally and in writing, to address crime, particularly juvenile crime, in Jacksonville. These comments and recommendations will be summarized, and presented at the next meeting. In order to continue the discussion on crime, the committee requested the presence at the next meeting of representatives from the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services and the State Attorney's Office. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

The next meeting of the Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee was scheduled for **5:00 pm on Tuesday, January 11, 1994 at Stanton College Preparatory School.**

URBAN CORE DISTRICT CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGIES FOR ADDRESSING CRIME IN JACKSONVILLE

PREVENTION

- Encourage and expand neighborhood watch programs and community patrols.
- Direct more Community Development Block Grant Funds for the support and expansion of successful non-profit and community programs that address crime and youth problems.
- The City of Jacksonville should incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Techniques, in all public projects, as well as in the review and permitting of private projects. This program would address appropriate street lighting, alley maintenance and security, as well as street closures.
- The City of Jacksonville should provide or support quality youth programming after schools and during school breaks.
- Investigate new loitering law for convicted drug dealers and users, as well as an ordinance making solicitation for prostitution within 1000 feet of a public or private school a first degree misdemeanor.
- The City of Jacksonville should develop a Codes Enforcement Team to locate and cite properties identified as a public nuisance. Habitual problem properties should be fined, closed or confiscated.
- Identify and fund existing programs that are successful in addressing crime or youth problems.
- Establish curfew for youth.
- Continue to address race relations in order to further community spirit and cooperation.
- Support and establish more drug prevention and rehabilitation programs.
- Support the proposed 24 hour homeless center.

ENFORCEMENT

- More police attention for car break-ins, particularly in the downtown area.
- Put the zone commander in charge of all operations in the zone, including drug investigations and neighborhood watch programs.
- Require that zone commanders and officers live in the zone.
- Set a goal of reducing the number of hired off-duty officers and reducing overtime. This creates a conflict for the police department and erodes confidence.
- Conduct third-party research on victims rather than relying on official police reports for crime data.
- Redirect administrative staff to put more officers on the street and look at a freeze on salaries in order to put more officers on the street.
- With regard to drugs and prostitution, the Office of the Sheriff should deal both with the buyers and sellers including the publication of names in local newspaper.
- Provide police officers the appropriate equipment such as night vision equipment, camcorders with zoom lenses and audio equipment, to do undercover narcotics operations.
- Develop police substations, as well as establish more foot and bike patrols, to increase visibility and establish communication within the community.

JUDICIAL AND CORRECTIONAL

- The judicial system be more sensitive in keeping families intact.
- Make parents more responsible for children.
- Develop a "boot camp" program modeled after the Jacksonville Marine Institute that will help develop a sense of responsibility for at risk teenagers. This program would involve removing these teens from the school system, as well as requiring financial support from parents.
- Convicted criminals, especially multiple offenders, should serve their full sentence.
- In addition to victim compensation, restitution should also include mandatory community service.

- Set stricter rules and punishment for those involved in domestic violence.

- Provide VCRs and televisions for GED preparation classes in area correctional centers.

- Support and fund the Probationers Educational Growth Program (PEG) which is a statewide program developed by agencies involved in corrections and education. In an attempt to increase the educational levels of probationers, judges have the authority to refer them to the PEG program. Participation in the program is part of the terms of the probation.

EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES

- Support the Duval County School Board's *Victory over Violence Campaign* to develop conflict resolution skills among school children.

- Attempt to develop more male role models.

- Provide more educational opportunities and learning experiences for children in the Urban Core.

- Beginning with kindergarten, the school system should teach conflict resolution through non-threatening and non-violent means, as well as the stressing the idea of compromise. This process should also include instilling each student with a sense of self-worth and to differentiate between respect and fear.

- First year teachers in Urban Core schools should be provided an orientation to the special needs and problems facing inner city youth. This orientation should include sensitivity training and a tour of the neighborhoods served by the school.

- The School Board should attempt to place more African American administrators, teachers and support staff in the inner city schools.

- The City of Jacksonville should provide incentives for employers that encourage and sponsor an inner city school mentor program among its employees.

- Reform or replace the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services.

- Support and fund the Vital Issue Program (VIP) which provides personal development training to youth who lack personal skills necessary to function in society.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Provide better job training opportunities.
- Provide more economic initiatives in the Urban Core in order to stimulate employment opportunities.
- Use the Enterprise Zones to develop more manufacturing jobs in the Urban Core that would provide good paying jobs for unskilled labor.
- Provide employment programs for urban and disadvantaged youth.