Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Michael Bryant, Chairman *Raymond Parnell, Vice Chairman*

MEETING SUMMARY MARCH 19, 1996

RIVERSIDE HOSPITAL

Members Present

Flossie M. Brunson
Michael Bryant
Duane Dumbleton
Celia Miller
Phil Neary
Janetta Norman
Ray Parnell
Christine Tyler
Joann Smith

Staff Present

Robert Drummond, Office of the Sheriff
Noah Henderson, Planning & Development Department
Joel McEachin, Planning & Development Department
Yvonne McGruder, Planning & Development Department
Judy Truitt, Community Services Department

Other Present

R.L. Berry, North CPAC
Leon Green, Teletronics
Jennifer Friedland, Intercel
Carlin Robinson, HSCC

The Chairman, Michael Bryant, called the meeting to order at 5:15 P.M., at Riverside Hospital.

The Chairman, thanked Riverside Hospital for all the wonderful refreshments that was provided to staff and friends.

New Business - Un-Met Needs

Ms. Roslyn Phillips of Community Development Division, provided information on the **Community Block Grant Program**. The program is funded by HUD to benefit the low and moderate income families. She stated that a public hearing had been held. The hearing revealed that there were various areas that needed to be addressed. The beautification throughout every neighborhood and community, maintain the up keep of the properties, rehabilitation of housing, more strident code enforcement, particular houses that have been condemned. It was stated that there is a long (time frame) process in tearing down the houses. Also, the empty houses are being used for criminal activities, that are not becoming of a neighborhood environment.

Code Enforcement issues were a main concern at the public hearing. For example, the **Riverside Area,** there is youth crime, a need for recreation centers, outlets, and employment opportunities for the youths. In need of funding for small organizations and neighborhoods to help with the beautification in the areas, the need for right-of-way areas to be clean, etc.

The Mayor targeted two concerns:

infrastructure drainage
money for rehabilitation for housing

Mr. Raymond Parnell stated what are you **(Roslyn Phillips)** going to do with the information you receive from the City.

Ms. Roslyn Phillips stated we are accepting applications now from non-profit organizations and agencies in the City for funding for the upcoming year.

The Chairman asked when is the deadline for applications, **April 12, 1996**.

Ms. Joanne Smith stated **the Downtown Area,** needs housing, and home funding for new housing. (Roslyn Phillips Program)

Dr. Janette Norman stated that beautification, housing and business are needed in the northside area.

Ms. Roslyn Phillips stated that they welcome partnership with any organizations and businesses, they can provide more programs and services in a meaningful way.

Dr. Dewayne Dumbleton stated drainage problems and, bad flood areas between 1st and Pearl street and Hogan Creek. The inconsistentency of street and signage.

Ms. Christine Tyler stated employment for the homeless, additional funding for the low income families and the homeless.

The Chairman stated employment should be based in and around the residential neighborhoods in the urban core. Improvements require a joint effort by new businesses in the neighborhood and everyone, the government cannot do it alone.

Dr. Janett Norman stated how would someone go about getting someone to look at the conditions at 20th Street Expressway to Myrtle Avenue (boarded up houses and buildings).

Ms. Roslyn Phillips stated code enforcement or your City Council person may help you in this matter. For code enforcement information please contact John Curtin 630-4957.

Ms. Carlin Robinson asked, if the property safety of home owners can be cited by the owners?

Ms. Roslyn Phillips stated that sometime it takes several years to tear it down, which causes problems in the neighborhood. She also stated they are trying to get information from the State of Florida regarding demolition.

Old Business

Ms. Judy Truitt provided information on the status of the **Mayor Target Neighborhoods Program,** the purpose of the Incentive Care Neighborhood Project is to improve the learning environment in schools, by strengthening the infrastructure and human services in neighborhood surroundings, each employee working side by side with residents to identify neighborhood concerns and develop plans to address them. City resources will be made available to help neighborhoods help themselves. Incentive care is sponsored by equal development neighborhood participation and long term commitments are essential to the success. These are the trouble schools:

R.L. BROWN, ELEM
HYDE PARK, ELEM.
ED WHITE, SR. HIGH
JEFF DAVIS, MIDDLE
NORTH WESTERN, MIDDLE
SMART LIVINGSTON, ELEM.
MONCRIEF ELEM.
MATTHEW GILBERT, SR. HIGH
HYDE GROVE, ELEM.
OAK HILL, ELEM.
CARTER WOODSON, ELEM.
EUGENE BUTLER, MIDDLE
JOHN FORD, ELEM.

They met with the principals to find out what their needs were, networking, wiring and computer equipment for the schools are some of the issues.

The Chairman - public announcement, MONDAY, APRIL 15 THE MAYOR WILL ATTEND THE NEXT MEETING AT STANTON COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL, LOCATED AT 1149 W. 13TH STREET 5:00 P.M.

Cellular Antennae

Mr. Berry of the North CPAC, stated that in the past years there were two cellular antennae systems, AT&T and Bell South Mobility. They suggested that it would be the last choice to install towers in a residential zone. Towers are installed in the Mandarin and Arlington areas. The committee would like to increase the awareness and other issues to the community. Also, there is the New Digital Phone Towers being planned.

Mr. Leon Green of Intercell Cellular Phones (PCS) stated they are co-locating with competitive company, JEA. They have 30 towers to install. 911 emergency system is a working system, Intercell Cellular Phones will enhance communication system.

Dr. Dewayne Dumbleton stated why do we have so many towers? Why can't you all work together?

Mr. Leon Green state because everyone want individualization.

The Chairman stated the the 1996 Communication Law has been passed and there is a great concern on how many towers will be installed. Also, the **Chairman** that they raised the awareness level to the community.

Mr. Joel McEachin handed out the membership list, asked that any suggestions or changes be brought to the attention of Joel or the chairman.

Ms. Brunson and Ms. Miller stated no ordinance has been introduced at this point regarding the improvement of housing and, code enforcement. A resolution should be addressd by the Administration and City.

Mr. Noah Henderson stated the 2nd Unity Walk and Run is on it's way.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:00 P.M.