URBAN CORE
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1998
EDWARDS WATERS COLLEGE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Members Present
Phil Neary, Chair
JoAnn Smith
Carlon Robinson
Celia Miller
Flossie Brunson
Rita Reagan
Michael Bryant
Padrica Mendez
Louvenia Tippins

City Staff/Public/Media
Thelma Jackson
Lorrie DeFrank
Asst.. Chief Pete Mittleman
Matt Thompson
Thomas Jones
Alliniece Taylor
Thad Crowe
Ed Pratt-Dannals

Call to Order
Phil Neary, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:19 p.m.

Approval of Minutes
Minutes were not approved until a quorum was present.

Presentations
Ed Pratt-Dannals, Region One Superintendent of Duval County Public Schools, provided an update on the LaVilla School situation. He indicated that the project is still going forward on that property unless something happens through negotiations with Downtown Development.

Thad Crowe, of Landers-Atkins, discussed the various activities scheduled for JaxPride Week which will be held the first week in March, 1999. Additionally, he discussed the various services provided by JaxPride. Rita Reagan announced that Springfield would be conducting their first visual pollution inventory on Saturday, December 12th, from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Celia Miller expressed her concern regarding visual pollution caused by campaign signs. She asked whether the sign ordinance addressed campaign signs and Mr. Crowe responded that JaxPride had contacted candidates and asked them to sign a pledge not to engage in wholesale distribution of signs. Rita Reagan asked if there was a date for the Springfield Overlay Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Crowe said that they had resolved all the issues. The next step is the public hearing process after they go back to the neighborhoods. Flossie Brunson stated that they conducted a visual pollution inventory in 1997.

Old Business
The Chairman, Phil Neary, asked the committee if they wanted to read the copies of the committee reports and the responses for discussion or take the reports home and discuss at the

next meeting. Carlon Robinson said she would like to take them home. Michael Bryant said while reviewing the material that almost everything provided was what was given us a year ago in September or October 1997 and the only thing dated 1998 seemed to be a letter from Mr. Curtin. It isn't really clear if the City intends to give us any further update on implementing the recommendations and that the middle paragraph seemed to kind of suggest that the reports were only for planning purposes. Mr. Bryant suggested that if that is in fact the case, it may warrant some further response from the CPAC.

New Business

The Chairman, Phil Neary, mentioned it was time to start getting involved in a nominating committee for the election of officers for the CPAC for next year. He asked for volunteers to serve as a chairperson. Carlon Robinson, JoAnn Smith and Celia Miller volunteered to serve on the committee.

Carlon Robinson announced the Springfield Holiday Tour of Homes would be held on Friday and Saturday, December 11th and 12th. Padrica Mendez announced angel dolls would be available to purchase at the Springfield Tour. She said that $5 of the sale proceeds from each doll would go to help people in Nicaragua who were devastated by hurricanes.

Matt Thompson, of the Jacksonville Children's Commission, announced the New Ways Initiative Grant. Mr. Thompson explained that each CPAC would again receive $25,000 for grants through each of the CPACs. He stated the deadline is February 15, 1999. He suggested a non-traditional approach and cited an example of a church group who obtained a grant for studying the stock market. Mr. Thompson left information regarding the grant for distribution.

Michael Bryant raised a concern he said was expressed at a meeting of Springfield business owners who questioned police officers from Zone 1 being transferred to malls during the holidays. Assistant Chief Mittleman explained that due to the large influx of patrons at the shopping malls, the Sheriff decided to divert some officers who do not normally handle calls for service to the areas that are heavily populated during the holiday season. He further stated that just as it is done at the Gator Bowl and the Landing during the New Year's Eve Party sponsored by the City, there would be about 50 officers at the Landing on loan. Some of the officers will be from the Westside, Southside and from Arlington. Mittleman said some officers have been diverted but they are available to come back for specific assignments other than that of their duties in the Arlington and Avenues malls. Michael Bryant asked what period of time would the officers be at the malls. Mittleman responded that the officers would be there just through the holidays. The Chairman, Phil Neary, expressed that the situation bothered him immensely and the COPS Unit was supposed to patrol the Urban Core. Mr. Neary said the Sheriff encouraged them to use the COPS Unit for problems that are extremely relative to their area such as narcotic problems. Mr. Neary said they certainly have crime in the month of

December. He said they have more break-ins, more burglaries and more robberies. Mr. Neary inquired as to whether the entire COPS Unit was being moved or would it be two or three. Celia Miller expressed her concern as to how this would affect Zone 5. She said they were told that in the last six months or longer that there had been a decrease in the coverage of patrol and cutbacks. Assistant Chief Mittleman indicated he was not aware of any cutbacks or any initiatives to cutback. Mittleman asked Ms. Miller for her name and phone number so he could get Assistant Chief Bass to call her. Ms. Miller inquired about the withdrawal of "zero tolerance" in their area. Assistant Chief Mittleman explained that "zero tolerance" was a euphemism that really doesn't exist and it was impossible to enforce all laws all the time. Mittleman cited an example of the Jaguar ticket-scalping incident, which was "zero tolerance". Phil Neary suggested getting someone from Zone 5 to come to the CPAC. Assistant Chief Mittleman said he agreed with Mr. Neary and that zero tolerance initiatives are so manpower intensive that they can't keep going 24 hours a day, 7 days a week forever. Mittleman explained how each Zone Commander designates a particular high crime area and floods it with officers to combat a particular problem and then rotates to another "hotspot". Chairman Neary mentioned he brought this concern up to the Mayor at a CPAC Chair meeting. Flossie Brunson suggested the CPAC should invite Sheriff Glover to the January meeting.

Lorrie DeFrank of Neighborhood Services announced the Housing Safety Division is taking a look at the Codes Ordinance and asked for two representatives from the CPAC for assistance. Phil Neary and Celia Miller volunteered. Lorrie also encouraged the members to take copies of the new Neighborhoods Magazine.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.