

**SUCCESS ZONE
BRIEFING PAPER II –
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
PROCESS**

**New Town/ Grand Park
Community Leaders:**

Nat Glover, Co-Chair
Pam Paul, Co-Chair
Dr. Tyrone Blue
Hon. Betty Burney
Jeff Edwards
Sylvia Johnson
Hon. Warren Jones
Pastor Kelly Brown, Jr.
Dr. James McLean
Roslyn Mixon Philips
Brenda Sugar
Bertha Richardson
Lloyd Washington
Jermall Wright

JCC Staff:

Linda Lanier
Dr. Shannon Perry
Brenda Miller
Robyn Cenizal
Ronnie Cage
Walter Johnson
Lissette Maldonado
Monique West
Prudence Williams

This Success Zone briefing paper was created to inform our local community of a community engagement process, which involved New Town/ Grand Park leaders. This process also introduced the new program to several citizens by attending existing civic and neighborhood association meetings. Please contact Linda Lanier or Dr. Shannon Perry at (904) 630-3647 for additional details.

OFFICIAL NAMING CONTEST

In April 2008, all Smart Pope (S.P.) Livingston Elementary, Eugene Butler Middle, and Grand Park Center students were invited to participate in a naming contest, which ended on May 9, 2008. A total of 118 entries were collected by the school principals: Mr. Jermall Wright at S.P. Livingston Elementary, Dr. Sylvia Johnson at Eugene Butler Middle, and Dr. Tyrone Blue at Grand Park Center. The contest winners received the following:

- A \$50 Visa gift card
- Recognition as the student(s) whose entry was considered as the final name choice
- Lunch and games at Dave and Busters with Co-Chairs Nat Glover, Pam Paul, and five friends each

On May 22, 2008, the New Town/ Grand Park leaders met for a third time and selected the new name. On June 2, 2008, Co-Chairs Glover and Paul congratulated three winners: (1) Shakia Shipman, (2) Mya Sheppard, and (3) Darius Cosome, along with five friends each.

Thank you to all of the creative students, who entered the naming contest! Shakia Shipman's winning entry and the new name of the Jacksonville Children's Zone will be:

**NEW TOWN
SUCCESS ZONE**

Meetings in Brief:

- ❖ ON APRIL 4, 2008, THE CO-CHAIRS MET WITH SEVERAL NEW TOWN/ GRAND PARK LEADERS FOR THE FIRST TIME TO FORMALLY INTRODUCE THIS NEW CHILDREN’S PROGRAM.
- ❖ ON APRIL 18TH, NEW TOWN/ GRAND PARK LEADERS MET AND CONTINUED THEIR CONVERSATION REGARDING THE NEEDS OF FAMILIES RESIDING IN THE AREA.
- ❖ ON APRIL 22ND, THE STEERING COMMITTEE MET TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL SERVICES WHICH MAY BE OFFERED TO FAMILIES AND THEIR CHILDREN, RESIDING IN NEW TOWN/ GRAND PARK.
- ❖ ON MAY 22ND, THE NEW TOWN/ GRAND PARK LEADERS MET AND DISCUSSED IMMEDIATE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS. THEY ALSO SELECTED THE WINNERS OF THE NAMING CONTEST.
- ❖ ON JUNE 24TH, THE STEERING COMMITTEE DECIDED TO FOCUS ON THE NEW TOWN NEIGHBORHOOD AND DETERMINED A FINAL NAME OF THE NEW PROGRAM, BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NEW TOWN/ GRAND PARK LEADERS.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY

Throughout the past few months, the Co-Chairs have participated in several existing community meetings, to introduce the new children’s program, and facilitated meetings with New Town/ Grand Park leaders, to gather their input.

In May 2008, Co-Chair Nat Glover and JCC leaders introduced the program to citizens at a total of six (6), existing community meetings. Specifically, he spoke at the following forums:

1. Council Member W. Jones, District 9, Town Hall Meeting
2. Northwest Citizen’s Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC) Meeting
3. Urban Core CPAC Meeting
4. Sheriff’s Advisory Council (ShAdCo) “Sub-Sector M” Meeting
5. ShAdCo “Sub-Sector N” Meeting
6. ShAdCo “Sub-Sector O” Meeting

The Urban Core CPAC, Northwest CPAC, and ShAdCo Sub-Sectors M, N, and O welcomed former Sheriff Nat Glover at each of their meetings. Several members expressed an interest in being involved with the process. Other members shared their concerns and doubts. To date, the following stakeholders have been engaged:



**Potential Programs
in Brief:**

- ◆ **PARENTING EDUCATION**
- ◆ **AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT**
- ◆ **COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT**
- ◆ **FAMILY SUPPORT**
- ◆ **MALE INVOLVEMENT**
- ◆ **MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING**
- ◆ **MENTORING**
- ◆ **PHYSICAL HEALTH**

Programs and services will be based on New Town residents’ feedback, which will be gathered in completed questionnaires during door to door interviews and focus group participation.

Many of these potential services are already established within Jacksonville. However, these services are not intentionally linked to improve the lives of a specific population of families.

NEXT STEPS

- Co-Chairs Nat Glover and Pam Paul will continue to meet with Steering Committee members and New Town leaders during the summer.
- The JCC FI Team and Raines SOLDIERS will engage and interview hundreds of residents living in New Town to gather their input on the needs of their children.
- The Steering Committee will continue to leverage resources and intentionally link services that can assist families living in New Town. Specifically, they will narrow their focus on Block Groups 2 and 3, within Census Tract 28.02. These areas surround both neighborhood schools and have the greatest number of children:

