

Jacksonville Children's Zone* Briefing Paper I

Prepared by the Jacksonville Children's Commission, March 2008

JCZ BRIEFING PAPER I – SELECTION PROCESS

Committee Members:

Nat Glover, Co-Chair
Pam Paul, Co-Chair
Mayor John Peyton
Jeff Chartrand
Meredith Chartrand
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Renee Brust

This Jacksonville Children's Zone (JCZ)* briefing paper was created to inform our local community of the selection process, which identified the New Town/ Grand Park neighborhood as the potential location for the JCZ Program. Please call Linda Lanier or Dr. Shannon Perry at (904) 630-3647 for additional details.

BACKGROUND

In April 2007, Mayor John Peyton, Jacksonville Children's Commission (JCC) leaders, and several other community leaders traveled to Harlem, New York to learn more about the Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ), and its HCZ Project. The HCZ Project is a "multi-year comprehensive community building initiative of the Harlem Children's Zone." It assists parents, residents, teachers, and other stakeholders in creating a safe learning environment for youth, who reside in a 100-block area of Central Harlem.¹

The HCZ Project is recognized as a national model by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Harvard Family Research Project for its Complementary Learning System.² It is designed to insulate families and to support children's intellectual, emotional, and physical growth from the time they are conceived until they complete college and/or enter the workforce. The agency's FY05-06 Evaluation Highlights report shared approximately 50 positive outcomes associated with programming. A few examples are:

- The HCZ Project served 6,867 children and 3,677 adults.
- Eighty-eight (88) percent of The Renaissance University for Community Education (TRUCE) seniors (i.e., 15/17) graduated from high school. All students applied to college and were accepted into at least one school. (Two students' acceptances were pending while they completed a GED program or completed high school.)
- Four (4) percent of preventive program families (i.e., 6/167) had children placed into foster care.

Established in 1994 by the City of Jacksonville, the Jacksonville Children's Commission (JCC) aims to support families in their efforts to raise their children to be healthy, safe, educated, and contributing members of the community. JCC is one of eight (8), county-based Children Services Councils within Florida, investing in primary prevention and early intervention programs.

JCC has likewise been recognized for its Complementary Learning System by Harvard University.³ However, JCC's services and funded programs are not *intentionally linked* in an effort to insulate a specific neighborhood. The JCZ Committee has begun a meaningful dialogue about Jacksonville's capacity to replicate the HCZ Project model.

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Meetings in Brief:

IN APRIL 2007, THE JCZ COMMITTEE TRAVELED TO NEW YORK AND MET WITH GEOFFREY CANADA, HCZ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION.

IN MAY 2007, THE GROUP RECONVENED AT CITY HALL TO REFLECT ON THEIR VISIT AND TO BEGIN A CONVERSATION ABOUT REPLICATING THE MODEL PROGRAM LOCALLY.

IN DECEMBER 2007, THE GROUP MET AT JCC TO BEGIN REVIEWING A DETAILED, INITIAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOCUSED ON EIGHT (8) POTENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS.

IN JANUARY 2008, THE GROUP MET AT JCC TO NARROW THE DISCUSSION TO THREE POTENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS, AND THEY EXPERIENCED A VIRTUAL TOUR.

IN FEBRUARY 2008, THE GROUP MET TWICE TO PHYSICALLY TOUR THE THREE AREAS AND THEN TO CHOOSE THE PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD. THE NEW TOWN/ GRAND PARK AREA WAS SELECTED AS THE POTENTIAL LOCATION OF THE JACKSONVILLE CHILDREN'S ZONE.

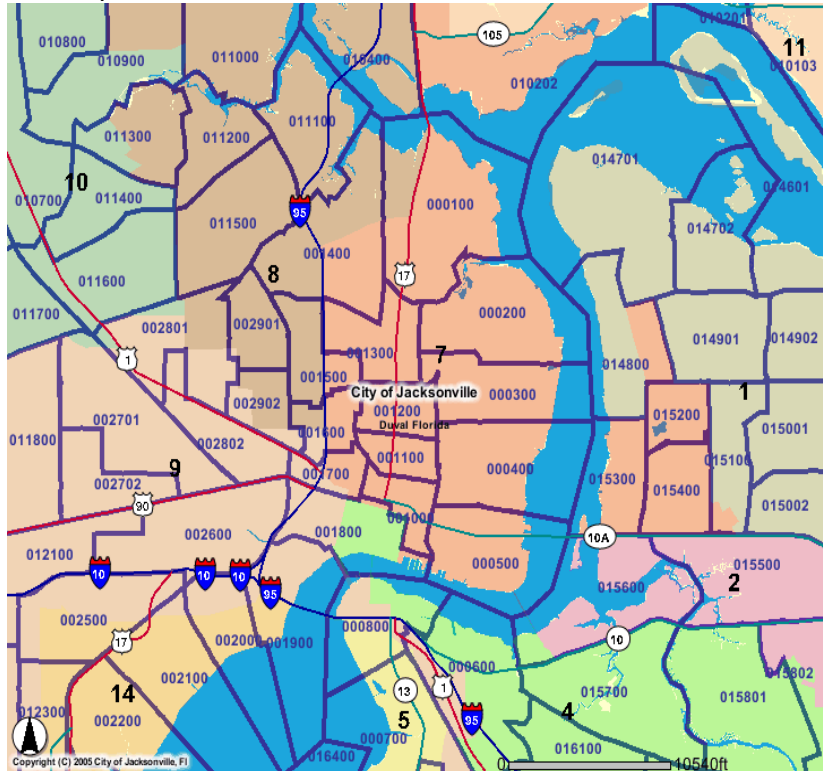
COMMUNITY NEED

Although Duval County provides opportunities to its children and their families, there are still areas for improvement. Data indicate that Jacksonville has improved in various key child well-being indicators overall.⁴ However, families residing in Jacksonville's urban core continue to experience economic, health, and social struggles, which have been described by our Duval County Health Department (DCHD). DCHD identifies the core as Health Zone 1.⁵

The following Census Tracts were thoroughly considered as potential locations for the Jacksonville Children's Zone:

- 1) *Census Tract 3* is adjacent to JCC.
- 2) *Census Tract 4* encompasses JCC.
- 3) *Census Tract 11* includes the south part of historic Springfield.
- 4) *Census Tract 12* includes the north part of historic Springfield.
- 5) *Census Tract 16* includes a portion of Durkeeville.
- 6) *Census Tract 17* encompasses JHA developments.
- 7) *Census Tract 28.02* is located west of I-95 and next to tract 16.
- 8) *Census Tract 29.02* is also located west of I-95.

JAXGIS Map of City Council Districts and Duval County Census Tracts



Replication in Brief:

The Harlem Children's Zone, Inc. informs that successful replications involve seven (7) concepts:

- (1)
Center on a neighborhood
- (2)
Entail community building
- (3)
Offer Parent Training
- (4)
Focus Prenatal to college
- (5)
Offer program linkages
- (6)
Conduct Evaluations
- (7)
Remain Accountable

COMPLEMENTARY LEARNING MODEL

As aforementioned, JCC has been recognized for its Complementary Learning System by the Harvard Family Research Project (HFRP), within the Harvard Graduate School of Education. According to HFRP, complementary learning is a comprehensive strategy for addressing the needs of all children and youth. It is a systematic approach, which intentionally combines both school and non-school supports, to better ensure that all children have the skills they need to succeed.⁶

HFRP likewise indicates that complementary learning models align (1) effective schools, (2) supportive families, (3) early childhood programs, (4) out-of-school time activities (including sports, arts, and mentoring programs), (5) health and social services, (6) community-based institutions (including community centers, faith-based institutions, museums, and libraries), and (7) colleges and universities.

Complementary learning systems differ from traditional programs in several ways.

- They ***do not isolate services*** in separate silos.
- They ***align resources*** to maximize efficiency.
- They ***create a web*** of opportunity, so that no child is overlooked.
- They ***provide children with access to enriching opportunities*** that are generally experienced by children living in middle class families.
- They ***promote success from birth through adolescence***, so that all children are ready to enter school and ready to exit school.

¹ Source: Harlem Children's Zone, Inc. website

² Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation and Harvard's Graduate School of Education websites

³ Linda M. Lanier, JCC CEO/ Executive Director, John Kabat, Ginger Peacock Preston, and Brenda Miller presented lessons from the field on Complementary Learning Systems in action, at Harvard University's *Closing the Achievement Gap Institute* on November 1-3, 2007.

⁴ Source: Jacksonville Children's Commission 2007 Profile Report, *Jacksonville Child Trends and Statistics 1990-2005*

⁵ Source: Duval County Health Department, Institute for Health, Policy, and Research

⁶ Source: Harvard Family Research Project fact sheet on Complementary Learning

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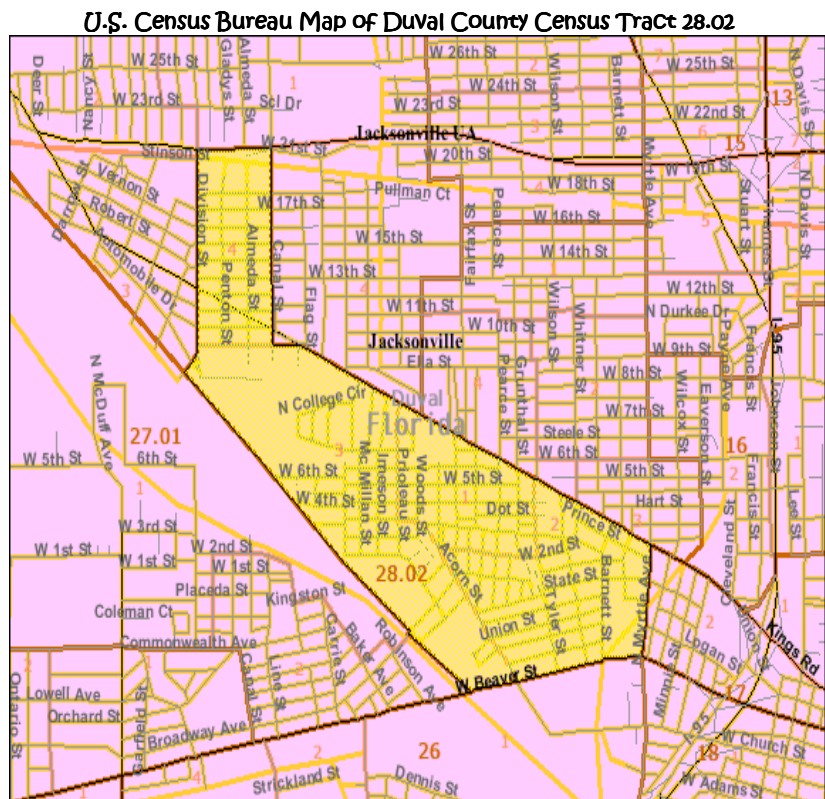
Statistics in Brief:

- ④ 4,999 TOTAL RESIDENTS
- ④ 1,575 CHILDREN
- ④ 35.23% OF RESIDENTS ARE LIVING IN POVERTY.
- ④ 64.0% OF FAMILIES ARE FEMALE-HEADED.
- ④ 97.8% OF RESIDENTS ARE AFRICAN AMERICAN.
- ④ 369 TOTAL BIRTHS
- ④ 23.0% OF BIRTHS ARE TO TEENAGE MOTHERS.
- ④ 41.0% OF RESIDENTS DO NOT HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.
- ④ NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS ARE SMART POPE LIVINGSTON ELEMENTARY AND EUGENE BUTLER MIDDLE.
- ④ NEIGHBORHOOD IS LOCATED IN SCHOOL DISTRICT 5, WHICH IS REPRESENTED BY BETTY BURNEY.
- ④ NEIGHBORHOOD IS LOCATED IN CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 9, WHICH IS REPRESENTED BY WARREN JONES.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000

NEW TOWN/ GRAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

Following their review of a detailed needs assessment, virtual tour, and physical tour of selected neighborhoods, the JCZ Committee selected the New Town/ Grand Park neighborhood (i.e., Census Tract 28.02) as the proposed location of the Jacksonville Children's Zone:



NEXT STEPS

Nathaniel Glover, Co-Chair, Pamela Paul, Co-Chair, Linda Lanier, and Dr. Shannon Perry met with Councilmember Warren Jones (District 9) on February 26, 2008 to introduce the program and discuss an upcoming community forum.

In April 2008, the JCZ Committee is planning to engage several New Town/ Grand Park committee leaders to participate in a momentous conversation about a program that insulates families. This community forum will set the tone for each aspect of the Jacksonville Children's Zone program's development and implementation.