



**CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JOINT MEETING SUMMARY**

**Urban Core, Greater Arlington-Beaches, Southeast, Southwest, Northwest, North
Ed Ball Building, 214 N. Hogan St., Housing and Neighborhoods
Department Room 851
Special Call Meeting – Joint
July 22, 2008**

Members

Urban Core CPAC

Celia Miller

Greater Arlington Beaches CPAC

Helen Ludwig, Chair

Southeast CPAC

Gamal Lyons, Chair
John Waddell

Northwest CPAC

Diane Kerr

Southwest CPAC

Ralph J. Malphurs, Sr., Chair
Charles Mann, Vice Chair
Charles Kelley
Rosanne Vernon

North CPAC

Tommy Ruffin
Rex Neidlinger

City/Staff/Public/Media

Kerri Stewart, Deputy Chief Administrator, Mayor's Office
Wight Greger, Director, Housing and Neighborhoods
Ken Pinnix, Chief, Community Development
Kenny Logsdon, Senior Planner, Community Development
Marilyn Fenton-Harmer, Coordinator, Community Development
Mary Beth Ridderman, Coordinator, Community Development
Rosemary Wesolowski, Coordinator, Community Development
William Arce, Housing Finance Specialist, Housing and Neighborhoods
Elaine Lancaster, Municipal Code Compliance
Chief Wayne Clark, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO)
Gary Dickinson, JSO Sheriff's Advisory Council
Officer Marta Crespo, JSO International Unit
Officer Ivan Pena, JSO International Unit
Vonda Miller, JSO Civilian Recruiter
Officer John Prevost, JSO
Officer M. J. Bryant JSO
Officer Greg Grant, JSO Community Affairs

Guests

Rep. Charles McBurney, Florida House of Representatives, District 16
Larry Emanuel
Leila Brown
Carla Miller, City of Jacksonville Ethics Officer

Delegates

Fernando Sanchez, Argentina
Gregory Juan Ch'oc, Belize
Juan Carlos Ballivian Vasquez, Bolivia
Luisa Fernanda Julia Gallo, Colombia
Maria Alexandra Montoya Bernal, Colombia
Juan Andres Moreno Lozano, Colombia
Welkin Cuevas, Dominican Republic
Nestor Fidel Castro Ortiz, Ecuador
Dania Argentina Martinez Cruz, Honduras
Norma Yaneth Merlo Ferrufino, Honduras
Nuria Joy Dixon Curtis, Nicaragua
Steffano Hurtado, International Visitors Corps
Dino Raul Jiminez Montes de Oca, Peru
Tania Taboada Villar, Peru
Federico Ricagni, Uruguay
Manuela Bolivar Rivas, Venezuela
Lawrence Augusto Castro Vivas, Venezuela
Jose De Jesus Guevara Gil, Venezuela
Laura Del Carmen Solorzano Silva, Venezuela
Lester Javier Toledo Soto, Venezuela
Joshua Covey, Consecutive Interpreter
Jenny Donahue, Consecutive Interpreter
Greg Garcia, Simultaneous Interpreter

Delegates were invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. Their program was arranged by the World Learning Visitor Exchange Program.

Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Ralph J. Malphurs, Sr., Charter Member of the SW CPAC and Honorary Chair of this meeting. He called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

- Chair Malphurs introduced William Arce. In Spanish, Mr. Arce welcomed the delegates and explained that the delegates would witness an actual CPAC meeting with representatives from all of the CPACs in Jacksonville.
- Chair Malphurs introduced Kerri Stewart, Deputy Chief Administrator, Mayor's Office. Ms. Stewart welcomed everyone. She explained that without CPACs, the city government would not have an understanding of what each community needs. She said the Mayor values the CPAC and he placed funding in the budget for three coordinators to provide administrative assistance to the CPACs. The

Mayor spoke with Chair Malphurs about the importance of the CPAC coordinators and he asked that Mr. Malphurs take the information back to all of the CPACs to vote to support the budget. Ms. Stewart said the *Jacksonville Journey*, a comprehensive community wide anti-crime initiative, was formed by Mayor John Peyton; volunteers from the community made recommendations to combat crime. The *Jacksonville Journey* stressed the importance of CPACs and the work they do as the residents of Jacksonville combat crime.

Guest Speaker: Representative Charles McBurney

Chair Malphurs introduced Representative Charles McBurney, Florida House of Representatives District 16. Mr. McBurney welcomed the delegates to Jacksonville and to Florida. He explained the history and purpose of the CPACs. He discussed his own involvement in the Southeast CPAC, as a member then as a chairman, and his current involvement as an elected official in the Florida House of Representatives. Representative McBurney serves on the following committees: Schools & Learning Council, Committee on Business Regulation, Committee on Education Innovation & Career Preparation, Committee on State Affairs and the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee. Representative McBurney briefly explained the branches of Florida Government: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches. He discussed how the state delegates non-exclusive power to local municipal and county governments. The City of Jacksonville, a municipal government, created the CPACs, a grassroots organization. Representative McBurney may be contacted at (850) 488-4171, or charles.mcburney@myfloridahouse.gov, or 1102 The Capitol, 402 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300. Questions about the Florida Statutes, Laws of Florida, and the Florida Constitution may be emailed to stat.rev@leg.state.fl.us.

Presentation: Crime Free Multi-Family Housing Program

Officer John Prevost from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) presented information about the Crime Free Multi-Family Housing Program, a voluntary police/apartment partnership started in Jacksonville in April, 2007 to certify apartment communities as crime free. Similar programs are operational in Nigeria, Canada and several states in the United States of America. To achieve certification, each apartment community must complete a three step program and commit to track/respond to all police reports on the property. First, an apartment owner/manager completes a training program and adopts a Lease Addendum which each renewing tenant is required to sign. Second, JSO conducts a "Crime Prevention through Environmental Design" (CPTED) study, which evaluates landscaping, exterior lighting, and other security measures. The apartment management must then bring the property into compliance with the minimum requirements and the changes are verified by JSO task force members. The final step in certification is a tenant meeting that describes the program to the tenants including the apartment management's plans to respond to police reports of criminal activity on the property. Responses will include evictions. Currently, approximately 42 percent of all crime in Jacksonville occurs within or nearby apartment

communities. Certified Crime Free Communities will become the more desirable places to live in Jacksonville because of the apartment communities' partnership with police and the resulting lower number of calls for service to those neighborhoods. Officer Prevost may be contacted at (904) 739-1051 or at John.Prevost@jaxsheriff.org.

Staff Reports & Announcements:

- **Mayor's Liaison:** In Spanish, Wight Greger, Director of the Housing and Neighborhoods Department, welcomed the delegates. In English, she welcomed them to the Housing and Neighborhoods Department, where the CPAC function is housed. She explained that activities in the Housing and Neighborhood Department include The Housing Services Division which is responsible for the administration of federal and state program funding received for affordable housing initiatives; The Community Development Division which assists blighted areas and works with CPACs to foster neighborhood involvement; and the Jacksonville Housing Finance Authority, which addresses affordable housing needs by stimulating the construction and rehabilitation of housing through the use of public financing. The department is also responsible for the planning and development of town centers and for economic development. Ms. Greger explained that the Mayor's three priorities are: public safety, health of the St. Johns River and economic development. She has been assigned by the Mayor's Office as liaison to the Southwest CPAC, to communicate information from the Southwest CPAC/Southwest neighborhoods to the Mayor. Although she is assigned as liaison to one CPAC, her job as Director places her in a direct line of communication from all six CPACs and all three CPAC coordinators to the Mayor's Office. Ms. Greger may be contacted at (904)255-8200 or at WGreger@coj.net.

- **Jacksonville Sheriff's Office:** Chief Wayne Clark reported that Jacksonville is in transition from a small city to a large city and the crime rate is one indicator of the change. He quoted from the Uniform Crime Report: in 2007, 61 murders were committed in Jacksonville. In 2008, to date, 49 murders have occurred. In response to the crime rate, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) began Operation Safe Streets (OSS), placing additional officers in specific area of the city. Two successful OSS reduced crime in the targeted areas, showing that additional officers on the street can effectively reduce crime. He explained that the Mayor's proposed 2009 budget, if passed by City Council, will add police officers throughout the city. The city's growth has resulted in a change in demographics. In response to the change in demographics, and a rise in crimes against Hispanic residents, the Sheriff created an International Affairs Unit (IAU) with three bi-lingual officers. He introduced two of the officers, Officer Marta Crespo and Ivan Pena.
 - o Officer Crespo welcomed the delegates to Jacksonville.
 - o Officer Pena reported that crimes against members of the Hispanic community are seldom reported because of fears of deportation. The IUA officers go into the community to educate the Hispanic residents not to be fearful of the police. The officers encourage residents to

report crimes, and provide the JSO emergency number (911) and non-emergency number (904-630-0500). The IAU officers assist homicide, robbery and other units in investigating crimes involving Hispanic residents. Since 2006, the three IAU officers have handled over 2,300 calls for service. Officer Pena may be reached at 904-630-7168 or 71681P@coj.net.

- **Planning and Development:** Kenny Logsdon, Senior Planner for Housing and Neighborhoods Department, announced that he supervises the three CPAC coordinators and their work with all six CPACs. He reported that the CPACs are involved in Planning and Development through land use planning, zoning, exceptions and waivers. The CPAC Governmental Affairs or Land Use and Zoning Subcommittees meet prior to regularly scheduled CPAC meetings to discuss and vote on issues related to each specific district. The issue is then reviewed, as an approved or disapproved motion, by the entire CPAC. Letters of recommendation are prepared and provided to Council Members before the issue is reviewed by City Council. The CPAC has a right to appeal the decision of the City Council. Kenny Logsdon may be reached at 904-255-8237 or Logsdon@coj.net.
- **Environmental and Compliance Department:** Elaine Lancaster, Municipal Code Compliance Supervisor, reported the division enforces property maintenance, safety and zoning codes, which affect the quality of life in Jacksonville. These laws address property nuisance, unsafe structures, residential/commercial minimum building standards, zoning, and junk vehicle violations on private property. Ms. Lancaster reported that the division currently has 30,734 cases. Kimberly Scott is the division chief. Ms. Lancaster may be reached at 904-391-3520 or ElaineL@coj.net.
- **Housing and Neighborhoods Department:** Director Wight Greger made a report earlier in the meeting.
 - **Community Development Division:** Ken Pinnix, Division Chief, reported that the Community Development (CD) Division supports neighborhood development in the city, assists with a variety of structural and organizational improvements, rehabilitates/redevelops slums/blighted areas and fosters [town center](#) initiatives. The division administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and oversees the administration of three additional federal grant programs Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA); HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). The CD also coordinates activities with six CPACs. Mr. Pinnix added that the CPAC Coordinators are very valuable assets to the CPAC communities they serve. Ken Pinnix may be reached at 904-255-8268 or kpinnix@coj.net.

Subcommittee Reports and Announcements: Chair Malphurs announced that all six CPACs have certain subcommittees in common. Other CPACs have chosen to focus on issues pertinent to their areas and have created subcommittees for those purposes.

- **Governmental Affairs Subcommittee:** Tommy Ruffin announced that he is a member of the North CPAC. He said that Kenny Logsdon did an excellent job of explaining the role of the Governmental Affairs or Land Use and Zoning Subcommittees. The North CPAC invites stakeholders to participate in the Governmental Affairs Subcommittee meetings and the CPAC meetings. The subcommittee meets one week prior to the regular CPAC meeting. The subcommittee makes recommendations to the full CPAC, which, in turn, votes on the issues and makes recommendations to the City Council. Currently, the North CPAC is inundated with requests for land use changes or zoning changes to accommodate new warehouses. These changes are due to the new development of Jacksonville's Port. The increased port activity will, in turn, create increased truck and rail traffic in and around the city. The North CPAC sees one of their jobs is trying to protect the interests of existing neighborhoods and to allow residents to come as guests to the CPAC meetings to voice their concerns about proposed land use or zoning changes.
- **Education/Youth and Recreation Subcommittee:** Chuck Mann announced that he is a CPAC Charter Member and currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Southwest CPAC. He has served as past president and is a current member of the Murray Hill Preservation Society, an active member of the Mayor's Older Buddies, a member of ShAdCo, member of the Better Jacksonville Plan Review Board, member of the Keaton Board, member of the Council of Elder Affairs and previously involved with the JCCI Study. He reported that the Duval County School Board's Academic Community Excellence (ACE) Planning Group is holding public meetings throughout Jacksonville to ask for residents' suggestions for the upcoming school year. At the meetings, residents will be informed about proposed school boundary changes and will be asked for input. He commented that the schools present a funding challenge for the City of Jacksonville due to the drastic funding cuts from the State of Florida. His motto is "you get what you expect" – he encouraged members and guests to expect more and to get involved in their schools as mentors.
- **Beautification Subcommittee:** Gamal Lyons announced that he is the Chair of the Southeast CPAC. For the purposes of this meeting, he is acting chair of the Beautification Subcommittee. Beautification Subcommittees assist the city with planning roadside landscaping and sometimes take on beautification projects. They also help in removing and reporting illegal signs from the city right of way. He reported that one of the city's greatest challenges is protecting the St. Johns River, recently designated as one of the ten most endangered rivers in the United States. Fifty four of seventy one tributaries of the St. Johns have been deemed unsafe. Last year the river suffered an algae bloom caused by runoff/over fertilization - the algae bloom killed fish and adversely affected recreational activities. Mayor John Peyton has initiated a River Accord to save the river. Chair Malphurs thanked Mr.

Lyons for an excellent report and added that he Southeast CPAC is doing a wonderful job.

- **Sheriff's Advisory Council Subcommittee:** Rosanne Vernon announced that she is the Chair of the Membership Subcommittee in the Southwest CPAC, she is a teacher, and mother of a 24 month old baby. She became involved in the community because she wanted her neighborhood to be safe but soon realized that the problem is greater than just her neighborhood. She joined the Sheriff's Advisory Council (ShAdCo), a grassroots organization comprised of residents appointed by the Sheriff - the ShAdCo works closely with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, meeting monthly/inviting speakers to educate residents on issues related to crime prevention and arranging/participating in ShAdCo neighborhood walks to help make JSO officers and law-abiding residents more visible in neighborhoods where crime is a problem. During walks, ShAdCo members go door to door to talk with residents and to distribute JSO brochures. There are 17 ShAdCo Sectors in the city. ShAdCo K is the largest, customarily having 94-107 residents at the meetings.
- **Chairman's Report:** Chair Ralph Malphurs announced that, based on his conversation with and request from Mayor John Peyton, Chair Malphurs had prepared letters for the CPAC Chairs. He asked the CPAC Chairs to write letters of support to Mayor John Peyton and to the City Council in support of the mayor's budget.

Public Comments: The delegates asked questions about the CPAC process and resident involvement. Residents and staff provided answers.

Old Business: Carla Miller greeted the delegates again and expressed her wishes that they are enjoying their stay and learning about the City of Jacksonville. She delivered *International Youth* brochures and DVDs that were unavailable on July 21 when the delegates toured City Hall.

New Business: Chair Malphurs thanked the delegates for their interest in the Citizens Planning Advisory Committees and, on behalf of the residents of Jacksonville, wished the delegates' an educational and enjoyable visit to Jacksonville, Florida.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m..

For more information about CPACs, please contact the CPAC Coordinators:

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Or visit: <http://www.coj.net/Departments/Housing+and+Neighborhoods/Community+Development/CPACs/default.htm>.

Refreshments for this meeting were provided by: The Edgewood Bakery, The Brick Coffee House, The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Ralph J. Malphurs, Sr., Charles "Chuck" Mann, Diane Kerr, Marilyn Fenton-Harmer, Kenny Logsdon, Rosemary Wesolowski, Wight Greger and Mary Beth Ridderman.

Summary prepared by Mary Beth Ridderman.