



Contact Information:

Cathy Chambers
904.366.6614

Katy Wood
904.366.6670
katy.wood@myjaxchamber.com

cathy.chambers@myjaxchamber.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Final Blueprint for Prosperity Plan Released and Foundation/Task Force Co-Chairs Named

JACKSONVILLE, FLA. (February 24, 2006) - Blueprint for Prosperity Chair, Bill Scheu, today announced that the final Blueprint for Prosperity plan has been released. The Blueprint process will now focus on implementing the Blueprint and aligning people and organizations to carry out the strategies of the plan over the next five years.

“Implementation of the Blueprint plan is key to creating a richer life for all of Jacksonville's residents,” said Mayor John Peyton. “There is a role for each of us to play in building a brighter future.”

“We are calling for citizens to partner on the Blueprint initiative as our efforts are focused on implementing strategies that will help us reach the benchmarks contained within the plan,” said Jarik Conrad, executive director of Blueprint. “We are actively recruiting a diverse cross-section of people from all parts of the city. Support from the entire Jacksonville community is essential in making this initiative a success,” Conrad said.

Blueprint for Prosperity is a partnership among the City of Jacksonville, Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Worksource designed to raise the income of Duval County citizens through concentrated efforts on six community foundations: education, economic development, infrastructure, leadership, racial opportunity and harmony and quality of life.

Blueprint leaders have recruited volunteers to co-chair each foundation/implementation team and council members to serve as liaisons for each, as follows:

Foundation	Co-Chair	City Council Liaison
Education	Bill Mason- FCCJ, Previously Baptist Health Systems Lisa Moore- IBM	Mia Jones
Economic Development	Barry Allred- Elkins Constructors Cleve Warren - JEDCO	Lad Daniels
Quality of Life	Connie Hodges- United Way of Northeast Florida Alton Yates- OTAI, Inc.	Elaine Brown
Racial Opportunity & Harmony	Jim Crooks- Retired UNF Professor Tony Jenkins- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida	Kevin Hyde
Infrastructure	Alberta Hipps- Hipps Group, Inc. Jim Robinson- King Engineering	Sharon Copeland
Leadership	Bruce Barcelo- Barcelo & Company John Falconetti- Drummond	Michael Corrigan

	Press	
Benchmark	Skip Cramer- JCCI Ed Hearle- Retired Management Consultant	Gwen Yates

- more -

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To develop the initial draft of the plan, Blueprint representatives conducted 29 focus group meetings with 355 participants, 14 community meetings with 580 participants and 20 task force meetings with 382 participants. The Blueprint staff, steering committee and task force members presented the draft to more than 11,000 citizens in their businesses, neighborhood organizations, nonprofit groups, faith-based institutions and at various other meetings.

Feedback was collected at each of these gatherings as well as through e-mail, fax, U.S. Mail and the Blueprint Web site, www.blueprintforprosperity.com. Through these meetings, the community developed key benchmarks, which are the driving force for the process, vision statements and strategies for each of the foundations. The feedback was presented to the 75-person Steering Committee on February 13 for review and approval of any changes to the draft.

“Blueprint for Prosperity is a comprehensive, holistic approach to improving our community,” Conrad said. “Now that the plan has been finalized, we’re excited to begin the implementation process.”

To obtain a copy of the final Blueprint plan, or to become a Blueprint partner, please contact Harlan Stallings, the Chamber’s Blueprint manager, at 904.366.6618.

About the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce

The Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce is the business membership organization of influence whose actions contribute to responsible economic growth and a better quality of life for all people on the First Coast, which includes Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns counties. We lead regional economic development by supporting the growth of area businesses, helping to attract and establish new businesses and fostering a healthy and inclusive business environment. Moreover, we improve quality of life through responsible, sustained leadership on community and regional issues of relevance to our members.

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