PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF
THE NORTHWEST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON NOVEMBER 18, 1993

PRESENT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Lou Myers, Chairman
JuanitA Baker
James Brown
Elaine Burnett
Mac Chauncey
Pat Council
Edith Green
Jerry Jones
Silas Jones
Rev. Eugene Mobley
Joe Roberts
Buddy Spradley

Alton Yates, Director, Regulatory and Environmental Services Department

SPEAKERS

Honorable Ed. Austin, Mayor
Larry Zenke, Superintendent, Duval County School System
W. C. Brown, Director of Operations, Office of the Sheriff
W.Ray Newton, Director of Planning and Development

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT STAFF

Balraj K. Mehta, Principal Planner
Gregory Owens, Director
Neighborhood Economic Development
Initiative (NEDI)
Calvin Burney, Chief
Transportation Planning Division
Kathy Wolff, Planner, NEDI

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

Captain Mark E. Bowen

OTHERS

John Shellhorn
Charlotte Stewart
Jim Love
Jonathan Thomas
James E. Johnson
Lydia Wooden
Hilda Myers
Raymond Parnell
Shirley Thomas

Chairman Myers called the meeting to order at 6.10. P.M. After a few brief introductory remarks, prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, he introduced Mayor Austin.

The Mayor introduced the other speakers seated with him at the podium. He stated that with the large geographic area of the City, there is a feeling among people that the local government has lost touch with the local community. Initiation of the *Community and Neighborhood Outreach and Participation Program* and formation of six 'Community and Neighborhood Committees' is an effort to bring the City government back to the grass root level. He said that he seriously believed that the people in each community and neighborhood knew their problems and possible solutions better than anyone else. By listening to you, we can do a better job at the City Hall. However, he cautioned that no one should expect quick solutions. Some of the issues will take time to resolve. He advised the committee members to "stay the course" and have patience. He mentioned that his Task Force on Crime in the City is due to submit its report in February, 1994. He invited the Committee to forward its suggestions and ideas on the subject to the Task Force prior to the completion of the report.

Speaking next, Mr. Zenke briefly described the history of public involvement effort by the school system which was started about twenty years ago and now is mandated by the State. He stated that in the last few years, problems with school age children have increased manifold and the system must address these issues. This will require close coordination between the School System, students, parents, and other organizations and groups in the City. He was completely supportive of the Mayor's *Community and Neighborhood Outreach and Participation program.* A senior staff member of the School System Administration has been assigned to each of the six Committees formed by the Mayor. He said that they were looking forward to working with you in the development of solutions to the problems and issues in the community

Agreeing with the previous speakers regarding the need to involve the local community in identifying issues, developing solutions and determining priorities, Director Brown stated that crime was the number one issue throughout the country. It has grave social, political and economic consequences at all levels. The problem, he cautioned, is going to get worse before it gets better. Babies born to drug addicts are going to be teen-agers soon. That will compound the problem. The problem is very complex and will require complete commitment from all segments of the local community to resolve it. He indicated that the Office of the Sheriff will realign its forces and resources to address this problem. Director Brown introduced Captain Mark E. Bowen, Zone Commander for this area who is assigned to work with this Committee. Captain Bowen will have his office located in the area. Any suspicious criminal activity can be reported in his office right here for quicker response.

Mr. Yates said that his mission is to be the *Communicator* between the Committee and the Mayor. He is very enthusiastic about working with the Committee.

Mr. Newton, Director of Planning and Development Department briefly described the various functions and responsibilities of the Department and said that his department is charged with the responsibility of providing staff services to the Committee, i.e; setting up meetings, mailing notices, agendas, summary of proceedings (in lieu of minutes) etc. A professional staff member has been assigned to each of the six committees formed by the Mayor. He introduced Raj Mehta, Principal Planner, who has been assigned to work with the Committee.

Mr. Mehta gave a brief overview of the Northwest Planning District. With the help of maps, he described the geographic boundaries of the area and presented statistical data regarding the land area, population in the District and its composition etc.

At the request of the Chair, each committee member introduced himself and identified three issues which were felt most pressing by his/her respective organization. Based on this information, it was decided to devote the next meeting of the Committee to discussion of crime, especially juvenile crime, in the area. The Committee voted to hold the next meeting on Thursday, December 2, 1993 at 6:00 P.M. at the Northwest Public Library on Edgewood Avenue. (Mr. Mehta informed the Committee that Mr. Madison Smith of West Jacksonville Civic Association has a conflict with evening meetings on 3rd Tuesday and Thursday of the month). The Chairman indicated that he would like to limit each meeting to last not more than two hours. The members felt that they needed time to consider other items listed under "Committee Business" on the agenda and voted to postpone action on those items.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.50 P.M.

ISSUES IDENTIFIED AS MOST IMPORTANT BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

COMMITTEE MEMBER	ORGANIZATION	ISSUES
JAMES BROWN	NORTH RIVERSIDE	ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (Traffic, air and noise pollution)
SILAS JONES	RIBAULT HOMEOWNERS	RIBAULT RIVER POLLUTION JUVENILE CRIME RESTLAWN CEMETERY
JERRY JONES	FIVE POINTS	GARBAGE ON STREETS PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO SHOPPING IMPROVED LIGHTING
EDITH GREEN	WASHINGTON HEIGHTS	CHILD RECREATION TRASH CLEAN UP QUALITY OF EDUCATION
ELAINE BURNETT	RIVERSIDE	JUVENILE CRIME AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONDITION OF PARKS
LOU MYERS	RIBAULT HOMEOWNERS	CRIME STREET LIGHTING PARKS
JUANITA BAKER	LACKAWANA COMMUNITY	CRIME DRUGS WATER/SEWER
EUGENE MOBLEY	ROBINSON'S ADDITION	STREET LIGHTING VACANT/ABANDONED STRUCTURES
BUDDY SPRADLEY	PARK AND KING MERCHANTS	STREET LIGHTING