PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF
THE NORTHWEST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON DECEMBER 2, 1993

PRESENT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Lou Myers, Chairman

Juanita Baker
James Brown
Elaine Burnett
George Carter
Mac Chauncey
Pat Council
Edith Green
Jerry Jones
Silos Jones
Joe Roberts
Madison Smith
Buddy Spradley

STAFF:

Jacksonville Planning and Development Department — Balraj K. Mehta, Principal Planner; John H. Crofts, Chief, Comprehensive Planning Division

Mayor's Department Head — Eric B. Green (representing Alton Yates, Director)

Office of The Sheriff — Captain Mark E. Bowen

Duval County School System — Ms. Gerlieve Oliver

OTHERS

Joe Bailey
William R. Bodra
Harvey J. Harper
W. Adrian Harrison, Jr.
Thomas May
Hilda Myers
Raymond C. Parnell
Earnest Richardson
Daisy Young

Chairman Myers called the meeting to order at 6.10. P.M. After the invocation, Pledge of Allegiance and the introduction of members, Mr. Myers introduced Captain Bowen of the Office of the Sheriff to present the "Crime Report".

Using charts and graphs, Captain Bowen described the increase in overall crime, violent crimes and property crimes in the City since 1989. He provided statistics showing that although the overall crime rate had dropped somewhat over the last year, the Juvenile crimes had gone up. The problem is compounded by "Serious Habitual offenders"(SHOs) who, though small in number, are responsible for committing most of the crimes in a community. He presented a statistical profile of the SHO juveniles, potential SHO juveniles and at-risk juveniles in the area by race and sex. Captain Bowen then described various programs which were being implemented by the Office of the Sheriff in order to reduce crime in the community, measures which the parents can take to prevent child(ren) from getting involved in criminal activities, and what the community can do to ensure safe living environment. The Captain pointed out that a major hinderance in deterring juvenile crime were the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS) guidelines on sentencing juvenile criminals and on the release of information about individuals which is on file. He distributed a packet of materials containing the data and the recommendations included in his presentation.

Buddy Spradley of "Park and King Merchants Association" made a slide presentation on the problem of trash and garbage in his area. He said that scattered litter and un-sightly garbage is not only an aesthetic problem and health hazard, but it also indicates carelessness and negligence on the part of the residents towards conditions in the area which invites criminal activity.

After a brief discussion, it was decided that every member will research the issue and present the recommendations at the next meeting of the Committee.

Ms. Elain Burnett of "Take Pride in Riverside" was elected Vice-chairman of the Committee.

Regarding Committee bylaws, Mr. Mehta stated that his Department is in the process of drafting model bylaws which will be distributed to all the six committees in the City. Each committee can make necessary changes in these to suit its special situation before adoption.

In answer to a question about publicity for the Committee meetings, Mr. Mehta responded that a copy of the meeting notice is furnished to The Florida Times Union. An announcement is normally printed either under the daily events or in the "Community News" section of the Paper. The Planning and Development Department has not sent in any advertisements for the meetings. Every member of this Committee represents a civic or business organization. The members are expected to keep their groups informed about the Committee meetings. Mr. Crofts added that the Department is looking into ways to increase publicity about these meetings.

It was decided to hold the future Committee meetings on second Thursday of every month. The next meeting, therefore, will be held on Januray 13, 1994. The meetings will continue to be held at the same location, i.e; Northwest Branch Library on Edgewood Avenue until decided otherwise.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.10 P.M.

Date_____

Lou Myers, Chairman