PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF
THE NORTHWEST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON APRIL 14, 1994

PRESENT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	STAFF	OTHERS
Lou Myers, Chairman	Raj Mehta	Calvin Burney
Juanita Baker	Kenneth Avery	Gregory Owens
James Brown	Capt. Mark Bowen	Tammy Rios
Edith Green	Gerlieve Oliver	John Shellhorn
Elaine Burnett		Vivian Wakefield
Jerry Jones		Phil Worth
Barney Roberts		
Buddy Spradley		

Chairman Myers called the meeting to order at 6:10. P.M. After the invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance, the Chairman stated that we do not have a quorum. He mentioned the bus tour of the district taken by the committee members on April 10, 1994 was very useful, educational and gave a good perspective of the good and bad parts in the area. He introduced Mr Joseph E. Whitaker, Deputy Director Downtown Development Authority to make a presentation on the Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community Application project.

Mr. Whitaker stated that Title XIII of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 created the Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities (EZ/EC) as a new program. This program is an important component of President Clinton Administration's strategy for revitalizing poverty stricken inner cities and rural areas, while at the same time empowering people to work together to create jobs and employment opportunities. The program seeks to create self-sustaining, long term economic development in areas of pervasive poverty, unemployment and general distress. He stated that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) may designate up to six (6) Urban Enterprize Zones and up to sixty-five (65) Empowerment Communities. Jacksonville will be competing for designation as one of the sixty-five Enterprise Communities. He explained the criteria for designating these communities which include; 1. The total area to be designated may not exceed twenty (20) square miles, 2. The total population of the EZ/EC area is limited to 10% of the population of the local government jurisdiction (63,523 persons for Jacksonville), 3. Conditions of pervasive poverty must exist among 20-30% of the area residents, and 4. The area to be designated must include whole census tracts which may or may not be contiguous. All demographic data shall be from the 1990 Census.

Mr. Whitaker stressed that unlike similar other programs in the past, when the programs were

developed by the local government officials, the major emphasis in this case is that the program must be grass roots driven. The citizens will decide the boundary of the area(s) to be included in the EZ/EC application and develop the strategic Plan for removing the conditions of chronic physical, social and economic distress in the community. He explained the benefits if the City is successful in getting the designation as EZ\EC. He mentioned that the initial kickoff meeting for the project is April 18th, 1994 at 6.00 P.M. at the Downtown FCCJ Auditorium and invited the members of the Northwest District Citizens Planning Advisory Committee to play an active role in the project.

Mr. Whitaker introduced Mr. Andre Martin to go over the statistical information and geographic areas eligibility options. With the help of maps, Mr. Martin showed the census tracts in the City which met the income and poverty level criteria for the program. The total population of the census tracts, however, exceeded the population criteria. Therefore, some census tracts will have to be excluded. He then displayed four alternative options for geographic areas which would meet the population and other requirements of the project.

The speakers answered several questions which were asked by the committee members and individuals in the audience about the strategic plan, application procedures and the selection of areas.

Mr Myers thanked Mr. Whitaker and Mr. Martin for their presentation. The Committee nominated Ms. Juanita Baker to participate in the project on behalf of the Committee.

Barney Roberts and Juanita Baker briefed the Committee on the meetings held in their respective neighborhoods, Sherwood Forest and Lackawanna respectively, on the EZ/EC program. Ms. Baker read a statement from Rev. Edward Fields, Jr. pastor, Epiphany Baptist Church for the need for a community service center in the Lackawanna area. The center will serve as a day care facility, a social activities center for the senior citizens in the area and house a police sub-station.

The Chairman then introduced Mr. Phil Worth from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to present the FDOT's Five Year Road Program. Mr. Worth distributed copies of a handout showing the FDOT FY 94/95 - FY 98-99 Work Program. With the help of large scale maps, Mr. Worth showed the types of highway improvements and phasing of the projects in the program. He also discussed how the program is put together and how changes are made to the Program. Mr. Worth demonstrated to the committee members how to look up projects in the handout that are located in the Northwest Planning District. Committee members asked several questions concerning specific projects in the district.

Mr. Myers thanked Mr. Worth for his excellent presentation.

The Chairman introduced Mr. Calvin Burney, Chief, Transportation Planning Division, Jacksonville Planning and Development Department. Mr. Burney along with Ms. Tammy Rios of his Division passed out copies of the FY 1994/95 through FY 1998/99 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Northwest Planning District. Mr. Burney stated that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Jacksonville Urbanized Area is responsible for the TIP which is a staged program of transportation improvement projects to be implemented during the next five-years in the

Jacksonville Urbanized Area. In addition to including all the projects which are included in the FDOT's 5-year Road Program, the TIP also includes other modes of transportation such as transit equipment, pedestrian walkways, bicycle paths/trails and transportation enhancement projects. He displayed maps showing different types of improvement projects and the year in which these are proposed to be undertaken. Mr. Burney stated that the MPO has a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) which makes recommendations to the MPO. He said that he was currently reviewing the composition of the CAC to expand the membership to include representatives from the six District Citizens Planning Advisory Committees.

Mr. Myers thanked Mr. Burney for his excellent presentation of the transportation planning process in the City and the Five Year Transportation Improvement Program for the Northwest Planning District.

Ms. Edith Green representing Washington Heights Association mentioned the serious traffic problem at Cleveland Road and Moncrief Road. She stated that both Cleveland Road and Moncrief Road are very busy streets. There are four public schools within a short distance of the intersection. Children have great difficulty trying to cross the street. There have been several instances of near fatal accidents at this location. There is a desperate need for a pedestrian crossing or some other measures for safe pedestrian crossing. It was decided to bring this to the attention of the NRT for proper action.

Mr. Myers stated that street lighting in most of the areas in the Northwest Planning District was inadequate. This issue was raised several times during discussion on combating crime in the community. He would like this to be addressed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

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Mr. Lou Myers, Chairman