PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF
THE NORTHWEST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON JANUARY 13, 1994

PRESENT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Lou Myers, Chairman
Juanita Baker
William Bodie
James Brown
Elaine Burnett
George Carter
Pat Council
Edith Green
Rebecca Highsmith
Barney Roberts
Rev. Eugene Mobley
Henry C. O'Miley
Renora White
Alton Yates

STAFF

Balraj Mehta, Jacksonville Plng. and Dev. Dept.
Captain Mark Bowen, Office of The Sheriff
Gerlieve Oliver, Duval County School System

OTHERS

Brian J. Davis
Alan Mosley
Gregory Owens
John Shellhorn
Judith Rossetti

Chairman Myers called the meeting to order at 6.10. P.M. After the invocation, Pledge of Allegiance and introductions, Mr. Myers introduced Mr. Alan Mosley, Chief, Utilities Engineering Division of the City for a presentation on the proposed water/sewer project in Lincoln Villa Neighborhood.

Mr. Mosley described the Lincoln Villa water and sewer project which is estimated to cost $13.5 million and is funded through the Mayor's Renaissance Program. Fifty percent of the property owners in the area must agree to have the service. Once the system is installed, the Ordinance Code requires all property owners in the area to connect to the system. Private costs to the property owners for connection charges etc; will vary from $4000 to $7000 per dwelling unit. Financial aid is available to qualified low and moderate income households for this purpose. He then distributed copies of various forms and other information relevant to the project.

Mr. Myers thanked Mr. Mosley for his presentation and stated that he had asked committee members Ms. Baker, Ms. Oliver, Rev. Eugene Mobley and Ms. Burnett to research the Crime Issue from different perspectives and report at this meeting. He asked them to present their findings.

Ms. Baker said that she had contacted and was pleased to introduce Ms. Judith Rossetti, Victims Services Coordinator, Jacksonville Community Services Department and Mr. Brian J. Davis, Chief

Assistant State Attorney who will speak on the subject from their respective perspectives.

Ms. Rossetti explained that her Division offers assistance to victims of crime. The programs include Counseling, Support Groups, Victim Compensation, Criminal Justice and Court Support, Education and Training, and Financial Assistance. She briefly explained each program, answered questions and distributed brochures explaining the programs.

Mr. Davis described the organizational changes made in the State Attorney's office to upgrade the Juvenile Justice Division and briefly explained various preventive as well as punitive programs involving State Attorney's Office to deter juvenile crimes, e.g; School Conflict Resolution, Program for At-Risk Students (PAS), Expanded Youth Mediation Program (YMP), Early Delinquency Intervention Program (EDIP), Mentor Program, Prosecution of Serious Habitual Juvenile Offenders as Adults, and Habilitation and Aftercare of Jailed Juveniles. Adding that more needs to be done, he recommended education/counseling for juveniles in jail, more supervised recreational activities, more dedicated funding for crime prevention, additional Resource Officers in schools, revised truancy rules for easy reporting, changing mandatory school age from 16 to 18 years, providing immunity to school personnel for controlling disruptive students, and greater discretion and authority for judges.

Ms. Oliver described the Security Measures being used in Duval County Public Schools. These include Hiring of Security Investigators/Detectives, School Resource Officers, weapon searches, Youth Crime Watch Program, 390-SAVE phone line, Emergency Assistance Response (EAR), Security Aides, Two-way radios, Emergency Alarm units, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), Video Surveillance, the Program for At-Risk Students (PAS), and Know Your Policeman. On 26th January, a new program "Victory over Violence" will be initiated. She remarked that the school system's primary mission is to provide quality education. The effort devoted to crime prevention takes the scarce resources away from the primary objective.

Ms. Burnettt described the "Coalition for Drug Free Jacksonville" program of the Office of the Sheriff for youth, parents and employers, and "Shoot Baskets and not Brothers" after school program offered by the Parks and Recreation Department of the City. She distributed copies of "Crime Prevention Programs and Assistance" offered by the Office of the Sheriff.

Rev. Mobley distributed copies of SB 68 relating to crime which is being considered for introduction in the 1994 state legislature. He also distributed copies of brochures containing addressees and phone numbers of local, state and federal elected officials from this area.

Mr. John Shellhorn of the Regulatory and Environmental Services Department discussed "Jaxpride" which is an umbrella group comprised of several grass root civic organizations engaged in programs for neighborhood clean up, beautification and improvement. The week of 2/26 through 3/6/94 will be observed as the "Neighborhood Jaxpride Week" to disseminate information about the organization and its activities.

Mr. Barney Roberts explained the key ingredients for implementing a successful "Neighborhood Crime Watch" program.

The Chairman thanked all the speakers for their presentations. He split the Committee into three small groups and stated that the groups will meet for about fifteen minutes to consider the issues. The Committee will reconvene after that for the groups to make their recommendations. Before that he said Mr. Mehta has some announcements and informational materials for the members.

Mr. Mehta announced the appointment of Mr. John Wright to the Committee. Mr. Madison Smith, originally appointed on this Committee, has been transferred to the Southwest CPAC.
He added that it is intended to use the Citizens Planning Advisory Committees (CPACs) as the primary vehicle for citizen involvement in all the projects and programs for their areas. Accordingly, all the projects proposed by any local government department or agency for any part of Planning District 5, will be presented to this Committee for input. The Mayor's office is being kept informed about the activities of these committees through the filing of a brief report subsequent to every meeting. Any problem, issue or need identified by this Committee will be reported to the Neighborhood Response Team (NRT) created by Mayor's Executive Order. The NRT will furnish a timely written response to the Committee on the subject. Minor problems, or emergency issues can be reported directly by the citizens to the Mayor's Office. Mr. Mehta distributed copies of the "Mayor's Complaint Form" for reporting such issues. Once the form is filed, the person filing the complaint will receive a written response indicating how the problem is being addressed. Finally, Mehta distributed copies of ***Government is Your Business:*** *A Guide to Government Operations in Duval County*, copies of a summary report containing ideas on crime being discussed by other CPACs, and also copies of ***Florida Urban Partnership Resolution Number 94-01*** resulting from the summit on crime of Mayors and Police Chiefs of major urban areas in the State held earlier in the month in Jacksonville.

After the break-up session, Ms. Juanita Baker speaking for Group 1 stated that the group endorses all the recommendations in the summary report distributed by Mr. Mehta with the addition of street lighting. Ms. Burnett presented recommendations from Group 2 which include; Job creation, street lighting, incorporation of CPTED in the Ordinance Code, Boot Camp, curfew for children, Neighborhood Patrols, more policemen, neighborhood clean up programs, and more parks and after school supervised recreation for children. Ms. Renora White stated that Group 3 recommends City programs for family bonding, pre-marital classes, and job training.

Mr. Myers asked that the members give serious consideration to all that has been presented and discussed and be prepared to make final recommendations, which will be sent to the Mayor, at the next meeting of the Committee which will be held on February 10, 1994 at 6.00 P.M. at the same location.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.10 P.M.

Date_____

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Lou Myers, Chairman