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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

THOMAS L. HAZOURI
MAYOR

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA
32202

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 87- 108

TO: All Elected Officials, Department Heads, Division Chiefs,
Independent Agencies, Authorities, Boards, Commissions
and Councils

FROM: Thomas L. Hazouri, Mayor

SUBJECT: BLODGETT HOMES-STATE OFFICE BUILDING SPECIAL
TASK FORCE

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor by the Charter and as chief executive and administrative officer of the Consolidated Government, it is ordered:

Section 1. Background. The intent of this Executive Order is to protect the welfare of the current residents of Blodgett Homes. My administration is concerned about the provisions of safe, adequate and affordable housing for all the citizens of Jacksonville. More specifically, one of my administration's goals is to provide such housing that is safe from crime and that is in close proximity to mass transit routes, employment opportunities, medical facilities and educational institutions. Joseph Blodgett Homes is a 45 year old public housing facility which was constructed in 1942 and presently contains 654 public housing units. As the years have progressed, however, our community has become extremely concerned about Blodgett Homes' continued utilization as low income housing. This concern stems from the increased crime rate within Blodgett; the continuing insufficiency of federal funds for its modernization; and the inadequacy of its overall layout and design to accommodate its residents.

Also, there is another matter which has an impact on the Blodgett Homes issue and that involves the proposed construction of a new state office building. The State of Florida has determined that there is a need for a new state office facility in the City of Jacksonville. In this regard, the state commissioned a study of potential sites that would meet state locational criteria. Based on the criteria, the study recommended the site which is currently occupied by Blodgett Homes as the best "all around site" for the project. In addition, four other alternative sites were reviewed, three of which include utilization of the Blodgett Homes site. Because of the recommendation made in the study, Blodgett Homes and the proposed state building, although separate issues, have become intertwined and one issue cannot be addressed without the consideration of the other. However, the solution to both of these issues may be independent of each other.

It is a fact that a site of adequate size is needed for a new state office building and that this site must be sufficient for the next thirty to forty years. It is also a fact that some action must be taken to resolve the concerns which have been expressed over Blodgett Homes. Therefore, I am creating the Blodgett Homes-State Office Building Task Force to review the two issues.

Section 2. Task Force Established; Membership. There is established a Blodgett Homes-State Office Building Special Task Force (the "Task Force"), to be composed of nine members. The Chairman of the Delegation shall appoint four members and I shall appoint five members. Task Force members shall serve for the life of the task force. Any vacancies which may occur shall be filled by further appointment by the official who made the initial appointment. The Task Force members are as follows:

Mayoral Appointees:

Richard Bowers, Director
City of Jacksonville
Dept. of Housing & Urban Development

Doug Ganson, President
Downtown Merchants Association

Bernard Gregory, Chairman
Jacksonville Urban League Board

Warren Jones, City Councilman
Council District No. 9

Rudolph W. McKissick, Pastor
Bethel Baptist Institutional Church

**Delegation Chairman
Appointees:**

Corrine Brown, Representative
Duval Legislative Delegation

Arnett Girardeau, Senator
Duval Legislative Delegation

Mattox Hair, Senator
Chairman, Duval Legislative Delegation

Curtis McCray, President
University of North Florida

Section 3. Purpose and function. The Task Force will thoroughly study all aspects of this issue, to include the following:

(a) Review of the report by the State Department of General Services regarding the site for a state office building.

(b) Review of the report by the Jacksonville Urban League Task Force regarding the future of Blodgett Homes.

(c) Receive comments and/or recommendations of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Downtown Development Authority and all interested parties about these two matters.

(d) Review input from the State Department of Community Affairs and the Jacksonville Planning Department regarding both the location of the state office building and the continuing long and short term need for safe affordable housing in the greater downtown community.

(e) Investigate the availability of federal funding or other funding sources for the rehabilitation of Blodgett Homes or, alternatively, the relocation of the residents of Blodgett Homes into new housing.

(f) Review all alternatives concerning the location of the state office building, giving serious consideration to the disruption of existing housing conditions and housing availability in the larger downtown core city area.

(g) Review all alternatives for improving the quality of life for the families who now live in Blodgett Homes, with the overall intent of protecting their welfare.

The Task Force is empowered to make recommendations in its best judgment as to the location of the state office building. The Task Force should also make recommendations in its best judgment as to the future of Blodgett Homes, realizing that these recommendations should not necessarily be intertwined nor dependent one upon the other.

Section 4. Officers; duties. The Task Force shall be chaired by Senator Mattox Hair or his designee. The chairman or his designee shall preside over all meetings of the Task Force and shall make provisions for keeping of the official minutes, agendas, resolutions and reports of the Task Force.

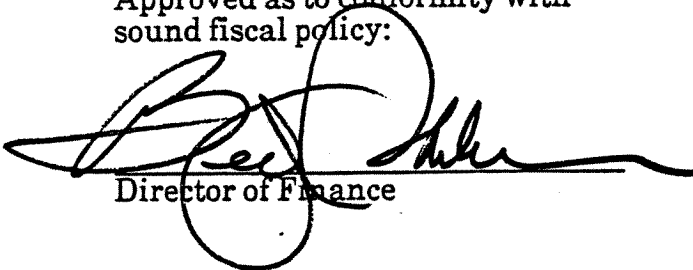
Section 5. Meetings; Procedures; Report. The initial meeting of the Task Force shall be set by the Mayor and the Chairman of the Duval Delegation. Thereafter, the Task Force shall schedule such meetings as it deems necessary to perform its functions. It shall establish such rules of procedure as it deems necessary

to govern its meetings. It shall submit a written report to the Chairman of the Delegation and me within ninety (90) days from the date of this Executive Order. The Task Force shall be subject to the "Government in the Sunshine" requirements of Chapter 286, Florida Statutes, and Section 122.105, Ordinance Code. The minutes, resolutions, reports and other official records of the task force shall be subject to the "Public Records Law", including Chapter 119, Florida Statutes.

Section 6. Administrative Support. The Task Force may seek administrative support from the Executive Office of the Mayor, including secretarial assistance. I designate Mr. Jesse B. Smith, one of my aides, to serve as administrative support coordinator to procure for the Task Force such support as it may request. The Task Force also may call on the staffs of the Planning Department, Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Office of General Counsel, Downtown Development Authority, and the Duval Delegation if it chooses, or on the services of such other public or private staffs when appropriate in accordance with existing City procurement and budgetary procedures and limitations.

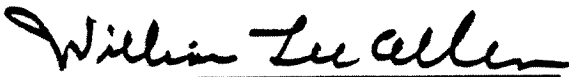
Section 7. Conclusion of Task Force Duties. Upon submission of its report, the Task Force shall disband. However, I may reconvene it from time to time to conduct further study in this area and to make further recommendations, if any, as may be necessary.

Approved as to conformity with
sound fiscal policy:



Director of Finance

Approved as to Form:



Interim General Counsel
(p.c./8-18-87)

Approved and Issued:



Mayor

Approval Date: Aug. 17, 1987

Effective Date: Aug. 19, 1987