



**Neighborhood Safety and Stability Subcommittee
2/19/08**

This packet contains handouts that were distributed at the Neighborhood Safety and Stability Subcommittee meeting on February 19, 2008 and includes the following items:

- Multi-family Workgroup charge

Multi-Family Sub-Committee

February 19, 2008

Hand out

This document discusses the sub-committee's membership, task and discussion areas. Meeting dates will be established today.

Members:

- Ronnie Ferguson, Chair
- Joni Foster
- Suzanne Jenkins
- Charles Commander
- Vicky Murphy
- G.Troy Cook
- Jack Barnette
- Capt. Mark Bowen

Task: To develop recommendations for the reduction of crime in multi-family apartment communities.

The sub committee will discuss and develop methods of reducing crime in the city's multi-family housing communities without regard for cost or difficulty of implementation. Recommendations will be presented to the Neighborhood Safety & Stability Committee where the recommendations will be accepted or modified and passed to the Jacksonville Journey Steering Committee. The sub-committee will attempt to complete its task in two meetings.

Discussion Areas:

Owners/Management – huge opportunities for improvement in safety exist through the active involvement of owners and managers. The short-term costs of improvements should be recaptured through the long-term stability of residents and reduced vandalism and destruction.

- Environmental
 - Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
 - Lighting
 - Doors, lock and windows
 - Attractiveness and cleanliness
- Leasing
 - Development and enforcement of leases which prohibit criminal acts by lease holders and makes leaseholders responsible for their guests
 - Participation in a citywide database showing the names and driver license numbers of all persons evicted in order to prevent these residents from moving from one multi-family development to another.
 - Working with the court system to have judges understand the need for strong lease enforcement and the need to support property owners in maintaining crime free environments

- Services
 - Providing social service programs in low-income developments to enable residents to improve skills and transition to higher levels of housing
 - Partnering with health, education and social service programs and agencies to enable them to have a presence in the development. Space should be made available for these services to take place where possible.

Resident/Tenant Organizations – resident groups should be encouraged and supported. Strong resident associations can work cooperatively with management and police to assist in affecting a crime free environment.

- Develop resident organizations in all properties containing 100 or more units.
- Provide financial support so that resident organizations can conduct their business e.g. the Jacksonville Housing Authority provides \$25 per unit, per year for resident organization operations (stamps, stationery, phone etc.)
- Owners and managers should meet regularly with the resident organization to discuss crime, maintenance, services and other issues.
- Space should be provided, where possible, for resident organizations and their activities.
- A Neighborhood Watch Program should be a basic program of all Resident Organizations.

Policing – police can act as a deterrent through frequent patrols and neighborhood activities and programs.

- Provide frequent patrolling in high crime developments.
- Officers should knock on doors and get to know as many residents as possible.
- Encourage police personnel to attend Resident Organization meetings and discuss crime information.
- Encourage all apartment communities to participate in the Crime Free Multi Housing Program that is a voluntary effort designed for apartment owners.

Legislative Action – some legislation may be helpful in regulating and providing living standards for apartment complexes.

- Periodic inspection and licensing of apartment units
- Mandatory requirement for apartments with high crime rates to participate in the Crime Free Multi Housing Program.