



**City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey**

**Neighborhood Safety & Stability**

**MINUTES**

**OF**

**NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY &**

**STABILITY**

**SUB-COMMITTEE**

**January 15, 2008**

# The Jacksonville Journey – Neighborhood Safety & Stability

## Sub-Committee

January 15, 2008

2:30 p.m.

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey – Neighborhood Safety & Stability Sub-Committee taken on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor – 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 2:35 p.m.

### Neighborhood Safety & Stability Committee

Tony Boselli, Chair  
Oliver Barakat, Member  
John Clark, Member  
Charlie Commander, Member  
Ronnie Ferguson, Member  
Joni Foster, Member  
Mark Griffin, Member  
Tripp Gulliford, Member  
Alberta Hipps, Member  
Suzanne Jenkins, Member  
Curtis Johnson, Member  
Diane Kerr, Member  
Tim Lawther, Member  
Lisa Moore, Member  
Devin Reed, Member  
Jim Robinson, Member  
Toney Sleiman, Member  
Eric Smith, Member  
Eddie Staton, Member

## APPEARANCES

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MEMBERS:**

TONY BOSELLI, Chair  
CHARLIE COMMANDER, Member  
DIANE KERR, Member  
EDDIE STATON, Member  
TRIPP GULLIFORD, Member  
ALBERTA HIPPS, Member  
JONI FOSTER, Member  
DEVIN REED, Member  
MARK GRIFFIN, Member  
TONEY SLEIMAN, Member  
RONALD FERGUSON, Member

### **ABSENTEE MEMBERS:**

OLIVER BARAKAT, Member  
JOHN CLARK, Member  
SUZANNE JENKINS, Member  
CURTIS JOHNSON, Member  
TIM LAWOTHER, Member  
LISA MOORE, Member  
JIM ROBINSON, Member  
ERIC SMITH, Member

### **STAFF:**

KERRI STEWART  
CHAD POPPELL  
JENNIFER SAVAGE  
STEPHANIE BARNETT  
RACHELLE M. SUNDY

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Tony Bates, Citizen  
Louis Ritter  
Matt Galnor, Times-Union  
Wight Gregor, Housing & Neighborhoods  
Rosemary Wesolowski, Housing & Neighborhoods  
Kenny Logsdon, Housing & Neighborhoods  
Marilyn Fenton-Harmer, Housing & Neighborhoods  
Carolyn Shehee Williams, Public Library  
R.L. Gundy, Pastor  
Penny Thompson, Shands Hospital  
Hank Wells, Crime Slayer Systems  
Mary Kay O'Rourke, HabiJax  
Anna Bradley, City of Jacksonville  
James Richardson, City of Jacksonville

## **PROCEEDINGS**

January 15, 2008

Neighborhood Safety & Stability Chair/Committee 2:30 p.m.

**Call to Order and Comments.** Chair Boselli called the meeting to order at approximately 2:35 p.m.

**Purpose of Meeting.** Discuss the Mayor's crime initiative - The Jacksonville Journey - Take a Step - Neighborhood Safety & Stability Sub-Committee.

Chairman Boselli welcomed the group and thanked them for their willingness to be in attendance; and proceeded to introduce former Mayor Lou Ritter (1951 to 1967), who currently resides in Palm Valley. Mayor Ritter noted he enthusiastically supported this groups work and efforts to date; he then gave a brief history of his work in Washington, D.C. and during his tenure as Mayor of Jacksonville. Chairman Boselli thanked Mayor Ritter for joining the group today.

Chairman Boselli then moved onto the business at hand. He reiterated that the charge for this group is to determine solutions to the problems that face our community. He noted that at the end of our committee term, we will have a posted neighborhood meeting, which would welcome public comment. One committee member noted that he disagrees with the process currently being followed. He states that in order to obtain community support, we must first involve the public. He noted that if the committee provides solutions, what is the incentive for the community to buy-in to those solutions, where is their

ownership? Chairman Boselli noted disagreement with this sentiment. He states that if you clean up the trash; graffiti; etc., light up the night - crime rates will improve. A suggestion from a member of the committee was that perhaps inviting a neighborhood representative would help solve the perceived problem of neighborhood buy-in to committee solutions. A discussion ensued regarding the numerous studies that have been done in the community regarding crime...it was again noted this is an action-group, not a study-group. Chairman Boselli again encouraged the group to focus on the task at hand - solutions must be identified and put into place. At this point, he asked the committee to look at the sub-sector maps provided by ITD (posted on the website). The maps in question provide an overview of the most increase in crime rates for the city. Discussion began to take place with regards to the best place for this initiative to begin, why was Eureka Gardens Apartment Complex? It was noted that the implementation of lighting in this neighborhood was in place prior to the start of The Jacksonville Journey. It was further explained that the map was only a small guide for the meeting. A question was asked, "What does the \$60K buy us?" There was further discussion about showing partiality to a particular area of town. Ms. Stewart was asked to provide a cost assessment for lighting and sidewalks in each of the noted sub-areas. A suggestion was also made that perhaps local business would be able to donate funds in the interest of helping crime to diminish in their neighborhoods. Chairman Boselli noted that he would like input from the committee, in order to take new ideas to the

Steering Committee; he encouraged the group to provide that feedback prior to the next Steering Committee meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup>. The committee then began to discuss the need to empower the community, the need for community involvement. Chairman Boselli agrees the people need to be part of this process; he asked that a vote be taken on Ms. Foster presenting a basic criterion for neighborhoods at the next meeting; to determine how to vote for which neighborhood receives the focus. Majority vote was yes, one dissenting vote (Mr. Staton). It was then discussed that the committee should ask the Steering Committee to facilitate the enforcement of the codes and law in these areas. It was noted that the CARE Report (Posted on the Website), shows numerous violations that could be handled in a manner that would possibly help reduce the crime rates. Ms. Stewart noted that NEAT (Neighborhood Enforcement Action Teams) has been created in the Seeds of Change program. They perform systematic street by street sweeps to attack code enforcement issues. Chairman Boselli then asked the committee for any questions - and the group was dismissed at 4:00 pm. It was noted for future meetings, an extension of 30 minutes would be added to the meeting time. It was further noted that there would be time built-in for public comments at the end of the meeting.

## 2. Action Items

Ms. Stewart was asked to provide a cost assessment for Street lighting and sidewalks in each of the affected sub-areas.

## 3. Discussion Items

None.

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.