



**City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey**

**Neighborhood Safety & Stability**

**MINUTES**

**OF**

**NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY &**

**STABILITY SUB-COMMITTEE -**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**WORKGROUP**

**April 7, 2008**

# **The Jacksonville Journey – Neighborhood Safety & Stability**

## **Sub-Committee – Economic Development Workgroup**

**April 7, 2008**

**2:00 p.m.**

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Neighborhood Safety & Stability Sub-Committee - Economic Development Workgroup taken on Monday, April 7, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Neighborhood Safety & Stability Committee - Economic Development  
Workgroup

Joni Foster, Chair  
Charlie Commander, Member  
Alberta Hipps, Member  
Suzanne Jenkins, Member  
Mack Bisette, Member  
James Richardson, Member

## APPEARANCES

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

JONI FOSTER, Chair  
MACK BISSETTE, Member  
CHARLIE COMMANDER, Member  
ALBERTA HIPPS, Member  
SUZANNE JENKINS, Member  
JAMES RICHARDSON, Member

### **ABSENT MEMBERS:**

NONE

### **STAFF:**

CHAD POPPELL  
JENNIFER SAVAGE  
LYNN RIX

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Derek Igou  
Chris Sutton  
Paul Crawford  
Paul Tutwiler  
Jennifer Holbrook  
Eugene Montgomery  
Wight Greger

### **PROCEEDINGS**

April 7, 2008

Neighborhood Safety & Stability Chair/Committee 2:00 p.m.

**Call to Order and Comments.** Chairwoman Foster called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

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

Chairwoman Foster had prepared a revision of the previous draft recommendations. This revised document can be found on the website at: <http://www.coj.net/Mayor/Jacksonville+Journey/Minutes.htm>

Under Assumptions it was suggested to add that there are 2 levels of neighborhoods - those that are completely gone and one that is teetering.

**Recommendation 1:** Accepted unanimously without discussion.

**Recommendation 2:** Candice Moody from WorkSource joined the meeting by conference call. They have 2 types of clients. Those that are high tech and high touch. There is a growing gap between these two client bases. High touch clients are not comfortable with technology and are lacking in job skills. WorkSource has a plan to have teams of 5 or 6 people to make connections in neighborhoods using other people's bricks. They will rove to various schools and community centers to target specific neighborhoods. Secondly they will train a core of volunteers according to the Service Corp of Retired Executives (SCORE) model so that people from the neighborhood are helping people in their neighborhood.

There is a gap for the entry-level worker: 1.) They don't know where they are in the job search. They don't know what their barriers are. 2.) Lack of time/personnel on the WorkSource side.

Q: Can WorkSource prioritize these services to the crime hot spots? Barrier: By the time they reach working age, many have already made life-altering decisions that bar them from many employment opportunities.

Q: Is WorkSource helping them or is anyone else? There are 2 staff members that cover all the high schools in 6 counties - what

employers expect. She suggests reaching out to the faith-based community. Junior Achievement is also an outreach for economic education. Amended to add "centers/facilities" in 2a. Accepted unanimously.

**Recommendation 3:** Paul Tutwiler of Northwest Jacksonville CDC spoke to this recommendation. 1.) Identify crime. 2.) Get citizens/residents involved in neighborhood associations. 3.) Bring in new homes/homeowners and connect them with existing homeowner associations. This model has been shown to decrease crime. 4.) Economic development is the next natural flow. An example of this is the Northpoint development at Myrtle and Moncrief.

Q: Marketing study? 1.) What the community wants. 2.) Feasibility - cheap land and enterprise/empowerment zone may not be enough to compensate for the crime in the mind of businesses.

Q: Who comprises the board? 1/3 of the board members are local residents. Someone must take control. The CDC is a non profit business.

Q: What do you need to take this to the top? How can the city help? 1.) Antiquated zoning laws. 2.) Assemble properties to comply with zoning. 3.) Identify, practical plan, and implementation strategy.

Q: Sometimes it's a retail operation - a first entry level job to get started on a career path. Who should the city be working with?

A: In blighted areas anything of higher use makes the community

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better.

Accepted unanimously.

**Recommendation 4:** Derek Igou, Deputy Director of Environmental and Compliance Department. Code enforcement and zoning enforcement have been combined under the reorganization. Still getting up to speed on the zoning enforcement, but code enforcement has begun making head way in being proactive as opposed to reactive. Today they are 40% proactive and compliance rates are increasing. Municipal Code Compliance continues to streamline and increase pro activity.

Q: Do you need more money to be able to do your job effectively.

A: We really just need to increase abatement dollars. Abatement goes a long way in increasing compliance.

Continue to streamline and

Amended to add "proactive enforcement" Accepted unanimously.

**Recommendation 5:** Paul Crawford of the Jacksonville Economic Development Commission (JEDC) spoke to this recommendation. The JEDC develops economic-based jobs that bring money in from outside the city. The JEDC really doesn't impact local jobs. Local businesses provide jobs that are created to enhance a neighborhood.

Q: What is the break point salary when it is more advantageous to work than sell drugs? \$11-12.

There are two Community Redevelopment Areas (CRA) - one downtown,

and one at the airport. The city needs to work with JEDC and Housing.

Chris Sutton spoke about the Seeds of Change program. It was suggested that program be changed to incentives. Housing and Neighborhoods Department (HAND) needs a plan that will encourage "revitalization incentives and planning support". It was determined that Springfield is not on the list of Neighborhood Action Plans (NAP). Therefore the wording NAP will be changed to "target areas".

Accepted unanimously.

**Recommendation 6:** Based on prior discussions with Paul Tutwiler and Paul Crawford, this was passed without discussion other than an amendment to add "other redeveloping". Accepted unanimously.

**Recommendation 7:** This recommendation did not require any discussion other than to add that JTA fund clean up and beautification of their bus stops.

**Recommendation 8:** Accepted unanimously without discussion.

**Recommendation 9:** Accepted unanimously without discussion.

**Recommendation 10:** Home builders should take advantage of tax rebates available through the empowerment/enterprise zones. But the process is very confusing and difficult. There needs to be communication of the availability of these programs and also communication that assistance in filling out the forms is available from JEDC. There needs to be a marketing/PR arm of the

JEDC.

Amend to add "efforts through the marketing arm of the JEDC".

Accepted unanimously.

**Recommendation 11:** Funding of city social services is not always part of the economic development solution and should be handled with care. Analysis and criteria should be established for the funding and site placement of social services that may discourage economic development and create intensity of undesirable activities. Accepted unanimously.

We need to encourage the funding arm to understand that we know new funding sources will need to be found. If the money/investment is not spent on the front end it will cost us by multiples on the back end.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

## **2. Action Items**

**Recommendation 1:** Accepted unanimously.

**Recommendation 2:** Amended to add "centers/facilities" in 2a. Accepted unanimously.

**Recommendation 3:** Accepted unanimously.

**Recommendation 4:** Amended to add "proactive enforcement" Accepted unanimously.

**Recommendation 5:** Accepted unanimously.

**Recommendation 6:** Amended to add "other redeveloping". Accepted unanimously.

**Recommendation 7:** Add a recommendation 7A - To recommend that JTA fund clean up and beautification of their bus stops.

**Recommendation 8:** Accepted unanimously.

**Recommendation 9:** Accepted unanimously.

**Recommendation 10:** Amend to add "efforts through the marketing arm of the JEDC". Accepted unanimously.

**Recommendation 11:** Written in the meeting and accepted unanimously.

### **3. Discussion Items**

None.

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