



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Neighborhood Safety & Stability

Crime-Free Multi-Family Housing Work Group

Minutes

Of

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY & STABILITY

SUB-COMMITTEE

CRIME-FREE MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING

WORK GROUP

March 6, 2008

The Jacksonville Journey – Neighborhood Safety & Stability

Sub-Committee

Crime-Free Multi-Family Housing Work Group

March 6, 2008

4:30 p.m.

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Neighborhood Safety & Stability Sub-Committee Crime-Free Multi-Family Housing Work Group taken Thursday, March 6, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 4:30 p.m.

Crime-Free Multi-Family Housing Workgroup

Ronnie Ferguson, Chair
Jack Barnette, Member
Mark Bowen, Member
Charlie Commander, Member
G. Troy Cook, Member
Joni Foster, Member
Suzanne Jenkins, Member
Vickey Murphy, Member

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MEMBERS:

Ronnie Ferguson, Chair
Jack Barnette, Member
Mark Bowen, Member
Charlie Commander, Member
G. Troy Cook, Member
Joni Foster, Member
Suzanne Jenkins, Member
Vickey Murphy, Member

ABSENT MEMBERS:

None

STAFF:

Jennifer Savage

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tracey Arpen, OGC
Darrell Griffin, HAND
Matt White, JSO
Matthew Stewart, HUD
Ida Jackson
Chris Snipes
Marilyn Fenton Harmer
Mary Beth Ridderman
Stephanie Benson
Shannon Nazworth

PROCEEDINGS

March 6, 2008

Neighborhood Safety & Stability Sub Committee, Crime-Free Multi-Family Housing Work Group 4:30 p.m.

Call to Order and Comments. Chairman Ferguson called the meeting to order at approximately 4:30 p.m.

Purpose of Meeting. Discuss the Mayor's crime initiative - The Jacksonville Journey - Take a Step - Neighborhood Safety & Stability Sub-Committee, Crime-Free Multi-Family Housing Work Group.

Chairman Ferguson called the meeting to order and welcomed the group. He motioned for the approval of the minutes from the February 28 meeting, which was seconded and they were approved unanimously. Chairman Ferguson then opened the floor for public comment. There were no speakers. Next, he asked Ida Jackson to discuss her recommendations for safety in apartment complexes, which are available online at coj.net. She also added that she felt it was important to include reaching out to young people when trying to reduce crime; and Chairman Ferguson said that is being addressed by the Positive Youth Development Subcommittee. Next Chairman Ferguson asked JSO's Matthew White to present on crime as it relates to multi-family housing in Jacksonville. His presentation is available on coj.net. Then the committee began discussing its policing recommendations, starting with work group member Mark Bowen providing an overview of JSO's Crime-Free Multi-

Family Housing program (available on coj.net). The policing recommendations are:

1 - Call for frequent policing in high-crime developments; approved unanimously

2 - Ask officers to knock on doors and get to know as many residents as possible, with the knowledge and concurrence of property owners, managers; approved unanimously

3 - Encourage police personnel to attend resident organization meetings and discuss crime information; approved unanimously

4 - Support the JSO in the implementation of its Crime-Free Multi-Family Housing (CFMFH) program and encourage all apartment communities to participate in the effort.

Work group member Vickey Murphy said she had concerns regarding the CFMFH program because a lot of law-abiding citizens live in these communities and she feels the CFMFH program protects management and not tenants. Chairman Ferguson said it was this work group's intention to encourage the widespread adoption of the JSO's CFMFH program, and then layer additional recommendations on top of it that benefit both management and tenants. Ms. Murphy also feels that it may not be fair to evict a tenant because someone that came to visit them was arrested for criminal activity. Work group member Joni Foster also voiced concerns over this. Chairman Ferguson said it is possible for several layers of due process to protect citizens, including management taking into account extenuating circumstances, and the court system. Ms. Murphy asked for a copy of the lease addendum that tenants would sign when leasing in a CFMFH community. Mark Bowen said he would

get her a copy and Tracey Arpen said it is available online, too. A motion for vote on this recommendation was made and seconded. The only dissenter was Vickey Murphy who opposed because she feels the CFMFH program is not fair to all tenants.

The work group then began discussing legislative action recommendations. The recommendations are:

1 - A review of the existing property safety code to ensure inclusion of CPTED & HUD housing quality standards within the existing inspection framework; approved unanimously

2 - Mandatory participation for apartments with high crime rates to participate in the CFMFH program; approved unanimously

3 - Adopt a tiered penalty system for complexes with excessive calls for JSO service that includes an option for diversion into CFMFH program in lieu of paying the fine; approved unanimously on the condition that staff and counsel will research legality and fee structure and limits and report back to the work group at the March 13 meeting.

Chairman Ferguson asked Joni Foster to work with staff on preparing all of the work group's recommendations for submission to the Neighborhood Safety & Stability Subcommittee. At the March 13 meeting, the work group will review and finalize.

Chairman Ferguson thanked the group members for their time and adjourned the meeting at 6 p.m.

2. Action Items

Policing recommendations:

1 - Call for frequent policing in high-crime developments; approved unanimously

2 - Ask officers to knock on doors and get to know as many residents as possible, with the knowledge and concurrence of property owners, managers; approved unanimously

3 - Encourage police personnel to attend resident organization meetings and discuss crime information; approved unanimously

4 - Support the JSO in the implementation of its Crime-Free Multi-Family Housing (CFMFH) program and encourage all apartment communities to participate in the effort; all in approval with exception of Vickey Murphy

Legislative action recommendations:

1 - A review of the existing property safety code to ensure inclusion of CPTED & HUD housing quality standards within the existing inspection framework; approved unanimously

2 - Mandatory participation for apartments with high crime rates to participate in the CFMFH program; approved unanimously

3 - Adopt a tiered penalty system for complexes with excessive calls for JSO service that includes option for diversion into CFMFH program in lieu of paying the fine; approved unanimously on the condition that staff and counsel will research legality and fee structure and limits.

3. Discussion Items

None.

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.