

**MAYOR/COMMISSION WORK SESSION**

**April 28, 2008**

**Commission Chambers – 10:07 a.m.**

**Present: Mayor Frankel, Commissioners Douglas, Moss, Muoio and Robinson Jr., City Administrator Mitchell, City Attorney McKenna and City Clerk Kauthen.**

<b>10.</b>	<b><u>Other</u></b> – The Mayor stated that [a] the group home issue would not be discussed at this Mayor/Commission Work Session due to the issue being in litigation; [b] she would have a meeting with staff to get an update; [c] the Commissioners would have to be advised separately; and [d] a Attorney Client Session may be needed.
<b>1.</b>	<b><u>Lighting for Jog Road</u></b> – Director of Engineering Services Bramley stated that [a] staff had done an initial cost estimate of two million Dollars to put lights down the medium on Jog Road; [b] staff have looked at adding light fixtures to FPL existing poles on Jog Road; [c] FPL and Palm Beach County require a photometric study; [d] a photometric study for the whole road would cost \$20,000; [e] most of the communities on Jog Road have corner intersection lighting; and [f] the County may allow lights for the approach to the intersections. Commissioner Muoio stated the residents view the lack of lights as a safety hazard. Commissioner Douglas suggested that a member of staff should go out to Jog Road at night to view the lighting situation. The Mayor concurred with Commissioner Douglas. Commissioner Moss stated that the school on Jog Road might be willing to contribute towards adding additional lighting.
<b>2.</b>	<b><u>Mayor Letter to School District Re: School Traffic at Bak Middle School</u></b> – Commissioner Moss [a] stated that the residents near the Bak Middle School and the Palm Beach County School District would like a letter detailing the City’s position on the traffic patterns in the neighborhood going towards the school; and [b] suggested that the letter should

	<p>include staff's recommendation of splitting up the traffic. Commissioner Robinson [a] iterated the importance of the neighborhoods finding a solution to the issue; and [b] stated he went to the neighborhoods during the school commute time period and found that there was some congestion in certain areas. Planning Director Wu [a] expressed his concern that any solution to the problem could have unintended consequences; [b] stated that he would like to have a community meeting with the neighborhoods so as to put forward staff's recommendations; and [c] stated that he would have a report for the Commissioners detailing the recommendations within a month. Commissioner Douglas [a] stated that residents in the area view this as a public safety issue; [b] spoke of a resident who was unable to leave her house due to the congestion; and [c] suggested that the City write a letter detailing staffs' recommendations. The Mayor [a] iterated the importance of having the issue resolved before the new school year commences; and [b] directed Planning Director Wu to have a neighborhood meeting with the residents.</p>
3.	<p><u>Day Labor Center</u> – Commissioner Douglas stated that members of the Day Labor Board would like to know if the Day Labor Center can be exempt from certain zoning regulations since the center is a not-for-profit business. City Attorney McKenna stated that [a] the zoning code does not distinguish between profit and not-for-profit businesses; and [b] the code would need to be amended to allow the center to operate.</p>
4.	<p><u>West Palm Beach Housing Authority Board Members Appointments</u> – Commissioner Robinson stated that due to the approval of adding two additional board members, he would like the Mayor to consider allowing people living in the facilities to apply for the positions. The Mayor stated that [a] anybody can apply to be on the board; and [b] any persons who are interested in applying should contact Mr. Frost for an application form.</p>

5.	<p><b><u>District Three Commission Vacancy</u></b> – Commissioner Douglas stated that residents had contacted her suggesting that items involving District Three should not be voted on until the district has a Commissioner. Commissioner Robinson stated that the commissioners are City wide Commissioners not District Commissioners. The Mayor stated that [a] last year there were two commissioner seats vacant; and [b] business should go on as usual.</p>
6.	<p><b><u>Naming of City Center Conference Rooms</u></b> – Mr. Frost from the Nominating Committee [a] stated that there are thirty-seven conference rooms, consisting of three main rooms and thirty-four other rooms; [b] stated that it has been suggested for the thirty-four rooms to be named after individuals with historical significant contributions to West Palm Beach; [c] noted that not all the rooms need to be named at once; [d] suggested developing criteria and a simple application process; [e] suggested implementing a program to encourage applications from the community; [f] suggested calling one of the mains rooms the City Commission Chambers; [g] suggested calling the overflow room, the Gallery; [h] suggested calling the room that would function like the current 519 room, either the Banyan Board Room or the Burdines Board Room; and [i] stated that the next Nominating Board meeting will be held May 15, 2008. The Mayor [a] stated that all applications should go through the Nominating Board for consideration before coming to the Commissioners; [b] stated that the thirty-four rooms should go through a community process; and [c] stated that in the next ten days the Nominating Board and anybody who is interested should brain storm and come back to the Commissioners. Commissioner Moss suggested naming the three main rooms after their function.</p>
7.	<p><b><u>Mandatory Drug Testing</u></b> – Commissioner Douglas [a] expressed her opinion that all elected officials should do mandatory drug tests; [b] expressed her opinion that elected officials should be</p>

	<p>under the same rules as City employees; and [c] suggested that City Attorney McKenna look into creating an ordinance addressing the issue. The Mayor [a] stated that people should only be tested if there is reasonable suspicion or if they drive a City vehicle; [b] inquired if the City unions would be open to having additional drug testing; and [c] expressed her opinion that drug testing is an invasion of privacy. City Administrator Mitchell spoke of the City's current drug testing policy. Commissioner Moss expressed his opinion that the public have a right to know that the City is a drug free environment.</p>
8.	<p><u>Al's Signs Exception to Sign Ordinance</u> – Commissioner Douglas [a] spoke of Al's store in Northwood which has three store fronts but by ordinance is only allowed to have one sign; [b] expressed her opinion that there should be a way to make changes to rules when they are illogical; and [c] stated that Northwood businesses are being sighted for putting up "A" frame billboards. The Mayor stated that the Planning Department should look into the issue. Commissioner Moss [a] stated that businesses in the downtown area are being sighted for putting out "A" frame billboards also; and [b] expressed his opinion that if the billboards are not obstructing the pavement, then they should be allowed within reason. City Administrator Mitchell stated that [a] a study would be conducted to address the issue; and [b] he would give the Commissioners a report in the next thirty to forty-five days.</p>
9.	<p><u>Mayor's Matters</u> – The Mayor [a] gave an update of the Foreclosure Assistance Program; [b] stated that next month the water and storm utility bills will be increasing; and [c] stated that the Housing and Community Development Department should look into creating a program to help low income residents with the increase in the utility fees.</p>
10.	<p><u>Other [Continued]</u> – Commissioner Moss [a] stated that there is a group called Friends of Elder's Cove who are looking to raise money to restore the EcoArt component at Dreher Park which</p>

was destroyed by the hurricanes; [b] stated that Palm Beach County Commissioner Koons has agreed to match any contributions which the City donates up to \$10,000; and [c] suggested giving the group between \$5,000 and \$10,000 from the contingency fund. Commissioner Douglas stated that the project will cost around \$50,000. City Administrator Mitchell stated that he could find \$5,000 to \$10,000 from the capital fund. It was the consensus of the Commission to use money from the capital fund to contribute towards the Friends of Elder's Cove project.

Commissioner Robinson [a] suggested that staff contact George Webb's Office regarding the expansion of Australian Avenue; [b] stated that the Kinsey exhibit at the Norton Museum of Art has been a great success; and [c] inquired if children from the Youth Empowerment Center could see the exhibit. The Mayor stated that [a] it could be arranged; and [b] the Police Athletic League should be included in the trip. Commissioner Muoio stated that if funds were needed she would be willing to use funds from her commission account.

Commissioner Muoio stated that the residents on Wachivia Road would like for their address to be known as Okeechobee Boulevard. City Attorney McKenna explained that it was a private road. The Mayor stated that the issue should be looked into.

City Attorney McKenna [a] stated that the City has hired Norman Ostrau who will be the City Ethics Officer; [b] spoke of Mr. Ostrau qualifications; and [c] stated that she hopes to introduce Mr. Ostrau to the Commissioners on the May 5, 2008 Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Moss [a] stated that there is going to be a meeting about the expansion of the Palm Beach Airport on May 15, 2008; [b] inquired if someone from the City should attend the meeting; and [c] stated that the League of cities would like the

	<b>opportunity to bid for the municipal insurance. The Mayor stated that Neighborhood Liaison Reilley will attend the meeting.</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b><u>Adjournment</u> - 11:23 a.m.</b>