

**MAYOR/COMMISSION WORK SESSION**

**JANUARY 4, 2010**

**FLAGLER GALLERY – 10:10 a.m.**

**Present: Mayor Frankel, Commissioners Douglas, Mitchell, Moss [arrived at 10:16 a.m.], Muoio and Robinson, Jr., City Administrator Mitchell [arrived at 10:35 a.m.], City Attorney McKenna and City Clerk Kauthen.**

**3. Fire Safety at the Library – Commissioner Robinson [a] asked whether staff had an opportunity to investigate this matter yet; and [b] asked that the person who raised the issue be notified of the outcome of this discussion. Chief Fire Prevention Officer Carsillo [a] provided an overview of the fire safety features in place at the library; [b] made a presentation regarding the stairwells at the library; and [c] responded to Commission questions. The Mayor [a] stated that when she raised the question of allowing patrons to use the stairs in the library in non-emergency situations, she was told that doing so would create a security issue; [b] noted that if doors to floors other than the first floor are opened in the stairwells, people could exit to other floors instead of exiting the building during an emergency; and [c] noted that many other buildings, including libraries, have the same policy regarding stairwells. It was the consensus of the Commission to follow the recommendation of security and the State Fire Marshal.**

**1. Vacant Property Registration Ordinances – Planning Director Wu [a] noted that several months prior, the Mayor had convened a Foreclosure Task Force comprised of twelve departments trying to tackle the looming foreclosure crisis; [b] stated that two foreclosure symposiums were held since one of the components the task force discussed was public outreach; [c] announced that another foreclosure symposium will be held on February 18, 2010, and the symposiums will continue to be held every two**

	<p>months until the foreclosure crisis has ended; [d] provided an overview of the foreclosure statistics in the City; [e] stated that another component the task force discussed was creating a vacant property registration ordinance, which would require registration of vacant properties to allow the City to maintain a frequently updated list of foreclosures and the parties responsible for the upkeep of the properties; and [f] responded to Commission questions. Staff Attorney Koehler [a] provided an overview of the proposed ordinance; [b] explained that lenders would be required to register their contact information online; and [c] responded to Commission questions. City Attorney McKenna [a] explained that the ordinance would establish communication between the lenders responsible for foreclosed properties and the City; and [b] responded to Commission questions. The Mayor suggested the City connect with a national database already in place. Commissioner Mitchell suggested the registration link be easy to find on the City's website. It was the consensus of the Commission to allow staff to move forward with the proposed ordinance.</p>
2.	<p><u>Coleman Park Overall Advisory Committee</u> – Senior Planner Roach [a] spoke about the various committees that were established to look at individual topics relating to the revitalization of Coleman Park; [b] stated that the established committees included five topic-specific committees and one advisory committee made up of neighborhood representatives and a representative from each of the topic-specific committees; [c] stated there has been a request for the advisory committee to become a formal committee with voting power; [d] asked the Commission whether they would like the Coleman Park Advisory Committee to go in that direction; and [e] responded to Commission questions. Commissioner Robinson [a] explained the process of assembling the committees; [b] noted that the Mayor had asked Chairman of the Florida Minority Community Reinvestment Coalition Al Piña to work with the business and economic development component of Coleman park; [c]</p>

announced that the School Board has agreed to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with a Florida Training Facility to train young people without skills to work in unions that would eventually help build the houses in Coleman Park; [d] thanked Senior Planner Roach and staff for their work in these efforts; [e] stated that the Roosevelt Full Service Center is recommending that a Senior Nutrition Program become available at the school; [f] stated that the Coleman Park Advisory Committee is asking that Coleman Park be decriminalized by March 2010; [g] stated that the targeted month for the resurfacing, landscaping and signage of 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Streets is March 2010; and [h] stated that there are plans to purge the persons who are serving on advisory committees for Coleman Park who do not have Coleman Park's best interest in mind. The Mayor [a] spoke about the importance of landscaping in neighborhoods; [b] stated that she has asked Landscape Planner Kussner to create a landscape plan for all of Coleman Park; [c] noted that the development of the landscape plans for the model block is underway; [d] stated that the City has received NSP funds to buy and rehabilitate homes, other federal grants to develop a Paint and Plant Program for homeowners, DRI funds to repair hurricane damage, funds for a Façade and Exterior Improvement Program for commercial businesses, and separate funding for a rehabilitation program for renters; [e] stated that the Children's Services Council will be putting out a Request for Proposal (RFP) to place community hubs in the County, including one or two in the City, which will focus on early intervention initiatives; [f] stated that the City is looking for community partners to encourage the Children's Services Council to place one of the hubs in Coleman Park and possibly a second in Pleasant City, if another hub were allowed to be located in the City; [g] suggested that the Coleman Park Advisory Committee follow the same procedures it has been until the committee has completed the transition into becoming an official voting committee; [h] asked the Commission to decide whether the selection of the home builders should come from

	<p>input from a committee of citizens and a presentation to the Commission, a presentation to the Commission from staff in conjunction with a committee, or from staff directly; and [i] asked that recommendations for the selection committee she will establish be given to Deputy City Administrator Miller. It was the consensus of the Commission to follow the Mayor's recommendation regarding the Coleman Park Advisory Committee. Commissioner Muoio suggested that the selection of the home builders be subject to the review of staff and the community, who will then make recommendations to the Commission to vote. It was the consensus of the Commission to follow Commissioner Muoio's suggestion. City Attorney McKenna responded to Commission questions regarding the RFP. Commissioner Moss asked that the RFP and its criteria be shared with the Commission. Commissioner Mitchell asked that the Commission receive notice of RFPs requiring the Commission's vote. City Attorney McKenna responded that it is at the Mayor's discretion whether to allow the Commission to vote on RFPs.</p> <p>At this time the Mayor [a] commended the Coleman Park residents who bought their neighbor in need a \$20,000 house using money they received from contributions; and [b] stated that after word got out about the effort, volunteers from throughout the County renovated the house. Commissioner Robinson stated that the Coleman Park Neighborhood Association should have been informed of the activities so that they could have offered their support.</p>
4.	<p><u>Community Empowerment Update</u> – Commissioner Douglas [a] asked whether Commissioner Muoio attended another Community Empowerment Meeting; [b] asked to be kept informed regarding the Community Empowerment Meetings; [c] stated that Planner Stelly informed her that they have plans for the economic development of Coleman Park, but do not have the funding to move forward; [d] iterated the importance of finding</p>

	<p>the funds for this effort; and [e] asked that CRA Project Manager Graham keep her up to date regarding economic development opportunities as she continues to work with Planner Stelly. Commissioner Muoio stated that [a] there had not been another Community Empowerment Meeting since the last one Commissioner Douglas was aware of; and [b] staff is working on some initiatives related to employment, such as putting together a handbook with names of employers and their contact information and researching what is available in the neighborhood. The Mayor stated that [a] she will put together a master list of all the initiatives taking place in the City; [b] she asked Planner Stelly for a specific plan of action to have the economic development in Coleman Park funded by using CBDG funds, NSP1 funds, possibly Section 108 loans and/or other possible sources of funding; [c] one proposal for economic development in Coleman Park is to build or renovate the small stalls on Tamarind Avenue for village markets; and [d] one of the criteria that will be looked at when selecting a home builder is how the builder will integrate the City's workforce program into their building process. Commissioner Robinson suggested that staff work with the Coleman Park Advisory Committee to devise a plan for economic development.</p>
5.	<p><u>Second Chance Re-employment – Duval County Ordinance</u> – Commissioner Robinson [a] noted that he represents the City and the State at the National League of Cities Public Safety and Crime Prevention Steering Committee; [b] stated that he and the Mayor discovered upon meeting with the Secretary of the Florida Department of Corrections that 1,400 County residents are sent to state prisons annually, and 1,350 are released to the County; [c] stated that the Secretary of the Florida Department of Corrections announced that they worked with Duval County to adopt an ordinance for second chance re-employment and would like to develop a similar ordinance in South Florida; [d] suggested that the City become involved in this effort; and [e] recommended the City look at a program developed by</p>

	<p><b>Criminal Justice Commission Vice-Chair Barbara Cheives. Commissioner Mitchell suggested the City review a similar program run by Alzo Reddick at the University of Central Florida. The Mayor asked that Deputy City Administrator Miller contact Housing and Community Development Programs Manager Jacobs and Planner Stelly since they have both been working on this effort.</b></p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Update on the Curfew Litigation</u> – Commissioner Douglas asked for an update regarding this matter. City Attorney McKenna stated that Attorney Joseph Ianno’s fees for this matter are being subsidized by the Related Group and are not being charged to the City. Assistant City Attorney Rothenburg [a] provided background information regarding this case; [b] stated that in addition to claiming that the City-imposed curfew was in violation of the US Constitution, the plaintiffs claimed that it was also in violation of the State Constitution; [c] noted that the federal court system dismissed the State portion of the complaint, advising the plaintiffs to file that complaint within the Florida court system; [d] announced that a Court Order Mediation is scheduled for January 12, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.; [e] announced that a pre-trial conference will be held June 18, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.; [f] stated that Attorney Ianno’s answer for a motion to dismiss the amended complaint is still pending and should be decided in July or August 2010; and [g] responded to Commission questions.</b></p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Presentation by John Cohen on Community Mediation Centers and Mediation Training</u> – John Cohen [a] provided a handout regarding his non-profit organization, the Community Mediation Network; [b] stated that he would like to set up two mediation centers in the City and to provide mediation training to local associations to teach them to mediate local conflicts; [c] spoke about the effectiveness of mediation centers; [d] stated that he had devised and implemented a mediation program at the South Bay Correctional Institution in partnership with the Florida Department of Health, which is being reviewed by Nova</b></p>

	<p>Southeastern University; [e] spoke about his qualifications; and [f] responded to Commission questions. Commissioner Mitchell suggested that Mr. Cohen speak to neighborhood associations and community groups to make them aware of how this idea could be beneficial to themselves and their community. City Attorney McKenna [a] stated that she would like to look at the proposal; and [b] asked that Mr. Cohen meet with the City Attorney's Office to lay out the framework and establish what the public purpose is for the program. Commissioner Muoio suggested this proposal also be presented to the Human Resources Department so they can decide whether they would like to train staff in mediation as well. Commissioner Robinson suggested mediation training be given to young people at the Youth Empowerment Centers, which just received a \$400,000 grant. The Mayor [a] agreed to send Mr. Cohen to the Youth Empowerment Centers; and [b] stated that Mr. Cohen could be provided with a space in City Center to hold a general lecture for the public and staff.</p>
8.	<p><u>Mayor's Matters</u> – The Mayor asked whether the Commission would like to reschedule the Police Benevolent Association (PBA) hearing to be held during a Special City Commission Meeting, since there was concern that the Mayor/Commission Work Session would be cancelled if the Special City Commission Meeting was held on January 19, 2010. City Attorney McKenna responded to Commission questions regarding the Special City Commission Meeting. It was the consensus of the Commission to not cancel the Mayor/Commission Work Session of January 19, 2010 and to reschedule the Special City Commission Meeting for another date.</p>
9.	<p><u>Other</u> – Commissioner Moss [a] asked for an update on the Charter Review Committee; and [b] asked what can be done about the skateboarders damaging the cast stone caps on the walls in the City Center courtyard. The Mayor stated that [a] Volunteer Jack Frost would soon finish putting the Charter</p>

	<p><b>Review Committee together; and [b] if the Commission would like to make any recommendations for who should serve on the committee, the Commission should provide them to Deputy City Administrator Miller. Deputy City Administrator Miller stated that Police Officer Carsillo suggested posting a sign forbidding skateboarding at City Center.</b></p> <p><b>Commissioner Robinson [a] announced that the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council is holding a charrette at Roosevelt Community Middle School to select a place for the FEC and CSX railroads to cross; [b] announced that the following week another charrette will be held at City Hall; and [c] stated that he refuses to allow the railway to cut through Evergreen Cemetery. The Mayor [a] announced that a Public Design Workshop discussing where the FEC Corridor train stops should be located and where the connection between the FEC and CSX railroads should be placed will be held on Saturday, January 9, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Roosevelt Community Middle School; [b] announced that from Sunday, January 10, 2010 through Friday, January 15, 2010 the public can provide input at an empty storefront at City Place; [c] announced that the public can also provide input on Friday, January 15, 2010 in the Commission Chambers; and [d] asked that West Palm TV, the Public Information Officers and Neighborhood Liaison Smith put out information regarding these events and meetings.</b></p>
<b>10.</b>	<b><u>Adjournment</u> – 12:10 p.m.</b>