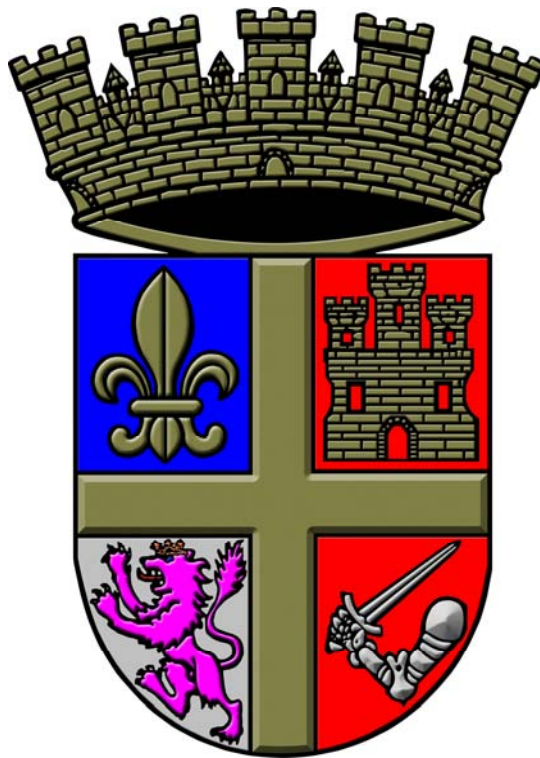


**LIFT UP
LINCOLNVILLE**
A PUBLIC SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR THE
LINCOLNVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD



Prepared for the City Commission
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1.0 - Introduction

The Lincolnville neighborhood is a forty five block area and National Register District composed of a total of 867 primary structures, of which 447 are contributing properties to the district. These contributing buildings are structures of cultural, historic and architectural merit. Lincolnville has contributed to St. Augustine's history thru all of its major periods. The oldest structure is the Yallaha plantation, which was constructed around 1845, during the Second Spanish Period of St. Augustine's history. The period between 1870 and 1930 is the most dominant architectural period in the district and is the basis for the architectural contribution to the National Register District. The community played a very important part in the Civil Rights history of the state and nation as well, culminating in its actions with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference campaign to end segregation thru the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Lincolntonville is primarily a residential neighborhood, but there are a few small shops within the district and there are large commercial marinas and boat repairs yards on its western boundary, along the San Sebastian River. The neighborhood has 289 homesteaded properties and in the year 2010 it also was home to 131 school aged children.

The neighborhood has gone through many economic changes throughout its history and it is currently enjoying a period of renewed interest in its quaint streets, towering oak trees and beautiful homes. But many of its homes and streets are in need of repair and maintenance. The climate of St. Augustine is hard on old homes. Geographically, Lincolntonville is located at the tip of a peninsula, between the Matanzas River and San Sebastian River, and it is a short bike ride to the beaches of the Atlantic Ocean. This location is one of the reasons why it is such a desirable neighborhood, but it also requires property owners and the local government to expend tremendous resources on the maintenance of private and public properties.

In the fall of 2010, the City of St. Augustine began a neighborhood improvements project called "Lift Up Lincolntonville" to address the maintenance of public and private properties, upgrade public infrastructure, install new landscaping and improve public safety. This document is intended for quick reference only, more details concerning the Riberia Street redevelopment can be found on the City's homepage at www.ci.st-augustine.fl.us under "Special Notices".

2.0 – PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

2.1 RIBERIA STREET REDEVELOPMENT (ROAD, SIDEWALK AND STORMWATER)

The Riberia Street Redevelopment project is an estimated \$ 8,200,000 infrastructure improvements project to remove the existing roadway and construct a new road along with new sidewalks, new underground power crossings and a new stormwater management system to help prevent

flooding. Riberia Street is a major transportation artery for Lincolnville residents and businesses and is in need of repair and upgrading. This is a very complex project which the city has worked on for many years and plans to begin physical construction work in mid January 2011. This project will proceed in two phases, the first phase from King Street to Bridge Street will cost an estimated \$3,400,000 and is scheduled to be completed in January 2012. The second phase is from Bridge Street to the southern end of Riberia Street. This final phase will cost an estimated \$4,800,000 and is scheduled to be completed in January 2013. For more details on this important project, join us at www.ci.st-augustine.fl.us, go to "Special Notices".

2.2 Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr. AVENUE SIDEWALK PROJECT



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue is the main north-south artery through Lincolnville and has sidewalks on both the east and west sides, which allow the residents of the neighborhood pedestrian access through the center of the community. In several blocks, there are gaps in the sidewalks as well as existing sidewalks that are in need of repair. The city has begun a sidewalk improvements project which will fill in the missing gaps and repair the existing sidewalks for complete pedestrian access. Approximately 2,800

linear feet of sidewalks will be installed at a total cost of close to \$22,000. These sidewalk improvements are well under way and scheduled to be completed in Spring 2011. In addition to these sidewalk improvements, the city has recently updated and re-painted the yellow curbs within the entire district, where street parking is not allowed. These no parking areas improve traffic flow and intersection visibility for cars traveling through the neighborhood.



New sidewalk across from the Excelsior High School

2.3 NEIGHBORHOOD LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS

The City is planting 16 Drake Elm trees, 9 Crape Myrtle trees and three Cathedral Oak tree in the neighborhood, all of which will be planted on public property and public right of way, in an effort to improve street trees in the neighborhood. This project is being done by the city Public Works Department in conjunction with the sidewalks improvements along Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue. This landscaping project represents a \$2,000 investment in the future tree canopy of the neighborhood.



Entrance to Community Garden at Eddie Vickers Field

3.0 – PUBLIC RECREATION

3.1 WILLIE GALIMORE CENTER SWIMMING POOL REPAIRS

The Willie Galimore Center is a community center and public swimming pool on the southern end of Lincolnville. The swimming pool is maintained and operated by St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department. This county department has indicated that it intends to fix the swimming pool and bring the facility into compliance with current health codes, but not to operate the facility after their contract expires in 2011. This swimming pool is the only public swimming pool in the neighborhood and the city is working to keep this pool open and operating well into the future. In addition to this, the city has made improvements to the Willie Galimore Center community center as part of this neighborhood program. The city has spent an estimated \$17,500 on painting, trim work, new flooring, interior lighting improvements and landscaping.



4.0 – PUBLIC SAFETY

41. ST. AUGUSTINE POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS TO END DRUG DEALING AT THE M & M MARKET

The M&M Market on the corner of Bridge Street and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue has been a visible source for illegal drug sales in the neighborhood in the past. The property was recently purchased by the City of St. Augustine after the St. Augustine Police Department seized the property and arrested the owners of the market for a variety of crimes. The elimination of this neighborhood drug corner made an immediate positive change to the neighborhood. The city has begun a public discussion on the future of this property and the commercial uses which will provide the most benefits to the neighborhood.

The St. Augustine Police Department stays in touch with the community through being active with the Lincolnville Crime Watch which is the oldest and most active crime watch in the city. They keep the Police Department abreast of neighborhood concerns and issues so the Police Department can address them in a timely manner. This partnership has proven to be an invaluable tool for Lincolnville and the law enforcement community.



M & M Market, corner of Bridge Street and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue

5.0 – CODE ENFORCEMENT

5.1 CITY CODE ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE TO ADDRESS OVERGROWN LOTS

The City Code Enforcement office has identified 21 properties in the neighborhood that contain junk, debris, untagged automobiles or have weeds and grass unattended. These properties owners have been contacted and efforts are underway to correct these code violations. In addition to this, two properties, 185 and 187 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave. have been identified as dangerous structures and are scheduled for abatement. These homes are vacant and have not been maintained, are open to trespass and have been condemned by the city Building Official. The removal of these two structures will make an immediate improvement to this block at the southern end of the neighborhood.



185 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue

6.0 – PARTNERSHIPS TO SAVE IMPORTANT STRUCTURES

6.1 EFFORTS TO HELP ECHO HOUSE REDEVELOPMENT

The City Planning Department applied to the National Trust for Historic Preservation for a grant to stabilize this important cultural resource. The National Trust has awarded a \$2,000 grant to help the St. Paul's AME Church in their efforts to restore this important structure. Although the amount of money awarded through this grant is small in terms of the work that is need on this property, the city appreciates the National Trust's efforts and continues to work towards saving this important neighborhood building. This grant money was part of a recent \$15,000 expenditure by St. Paul's AME Church to structurally reinforce portions of the building and cover the roof to prevent further water damage.



Echo House



Echo House

7.0 – PARTNERSHIPS TO HELP THE DISADVANTAGED

7.1 CONTINUED ASSISTANCE TO ST. FRANCIS HOUSE HOMELESS SHELTER

The St. Francis House is a homeless and feeding shelter located on Washington Street in Lincolnville and it is the only homeless shelter in St. Johns County. This facility is not large enough to adequately serve the homeless population of the city. The transient population congregates here to eat, but because of the lack of beds, many homeless men and women sleep in vacant lots, vacant and abandoned homes and the marshlands surrounding Lincolnville, as well as in the downtown parks. Recently, the city has allowed a parking lot on Granada Street, behind City Hall, to be used for food distribution during the evening and the city continues to work diligently to find ways to improve the welfare of its homeless citizens through partnerships with other public and private agencies as well as the St. Johns Home Again organization. St. Augustine's homeless citizens deserve the respect and dignity of adequate and modern support facilities and the city is committed to helping achieve this goal.



St. Francis House Homeless Shelter

8.0 – PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT LOCAL "GREEN" INITIATIVES

8.1 COMMUNITY GARDEN ASSISTANCE

The City Sprout is a local community garden at Eddie Vickers Field which is located on the south end of Lincolnville. This citizen based communal vegetable garden is a tremendous asset to the neighborhood and the city will soon be making landscaping improvements to the entranceway to this garden as well as installing a new sign at the entranceway to support this neighborhood garden. The new sign represents an investment of \$3,000 and will greatly improve the visibility of this venture. The success of this community based initiative is inspiring and the city looks forward to working with this organization for continued support of this important endeavor.

