

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Fair Housing Policies Workshop Meeting
Monday September 28, 2009

The City Commission met in a formal session Monday, September 28, 2009 at 4:06 P.M. in the Alcazar Room at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Joe Boles, and the following were present:

1. Roll Call:

Joe Boles, Mayor/City Commissioner
Errol Jones, Vice Mayor/City Commissioner
Donald Crichlow, City Commissioner
Leanna S. A. Freeman, City Commissioner
Nancy Sikes-Kline, City Commissioner

Ron Brown, City Attorney
Karen Rogers, City Clerk
Timothy A. Burchfield, Chief Administrative Officer
John Regan, Chief Operations Officer
Mark Knight, Director, Planning and Building
Jim Piggott, General Services Director
Paul K. Williamson, Director, Public Affairs
Carlos E. Mendoza, Assistant City Attorney
Loran Lueders, Police Chief
Mike Arnold, Fire Chief
Todd Grant, Deputy Director, Public Works
Darlene Kirkland, Recording Secretary

2. Fair Housing Workshop relative to Phase II of the Riberia Street Project.

Jim Piggott, General Services Director, stated that the workshop addressed the application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to complete Phase II of the Riberia Street project.

Fred Fox, Fred Fox Enterprises, stated that the purpose was to review the CDBG application process and to review the City's Fair Housing Ordinance. He stated that the CDBG program began in 1973 and was one of the oldest grant programs at the national level. He pointed out that the City was eligible to apply for up to \$750,000, and the amount was based on the low to moderate income population. He gave an

overview of the application process as follows:

1. Hold a public hearing for citizens to present ideas for projects that the funding could be used for
2. Establish a citizens advisory task force
3. Project recommendations brought before the Commission by the advisory task force
4. Hold a second public hearing
5. Project approval by the Commission
6. Submit application

Mr. Fox described the categories that the City could apply for as follows:

- Neighborhood revitalization – public works infrastructure in lower income neighborhoods
- Housing rehabilitation – renovate owner occupied homes of low to moderate income families
- Commercial revitalization – streetscape and parking lot improvements
- Economic Development – to bring new businesses to the City or expand a business that would create a significant number of new jobs

Mr. Fox noted that the City could only apply for funding in one of the Neighborhood, Housing or Commercial categories; however, if one of those funded projects were in progress an application could be made for Economic Development on an annual basis. He stated that the application process would take approximately six months from submission. He pointed out that CDBG funding came from federal Housing and Urban Development.¹

There was a brief discussion regarding federal and stimulus funding.

Mr. Fox detailed a program involving funds allocated to St Johns County to purchase foreclosed properties for resale or rent, putting the properties back on the tax rolls. He stated that 25% of the purchased homes had to be used as rental properties for low income families. He noted that the County designated target areas and portions of the City were included. He stated that, with regard to the Fair Housing Workshop, the City had a Fair Housing Ordinance in Section 16-26 of the City Code. He explained that the Ordinance pertained to anyone involved in the profession of real estate, providing mortgages or renting real estate from discrimination against anyone because of race, color, religion, sex, age, disabilities, familial status or national origin. He stated

that if someone felt that they were not able to purchase or rent property due to discrimination, a complaint could be filed with the City or at the state and federal level. He provided information on the Fair Housing Program which included a copy of the City's Fair Housing Ordinance.²

3. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.³

MAYOR

CITY CLERK, CMC

¹ Vice Mayor Jones arrived at 4:17 P.M.

² Attached to original minutes.

³ Transcribed by Darlene Kirkland