

**DRAFT  
CITY OF PALMETTO  
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
August 5, 2021  
1:00 PM**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

David Washington, Vice-Chair  
Maria Sosa

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Barbara Gaulien, Chair

STAFF PRESENT:

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney  
Scott Tyler, Chief of Police  
Matt Misco, Finance Department  
Vanessa Cochran, Assistant City Clerk

Vice Chair Washington called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. CRA ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA APPROVAL

**Motion: Mr. Washington moved, Ms. Sosa seconded, and the motion carried 2-0 to approve the August 5, 2021 CRA Advisory Board Agenda.**

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one from the public in the Chambers who intended to address the CRA Advisory Board.

3. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

- a. Minutes: July 31, 2020

**Motion: Mr. Washington moved, Ms. Sosa seconded, and the motion carried 2-0 to approve the Consent Agenda and approve the July 31, 2020 Minutes as recommended by staff.**

4. ELECTION CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

**Motion: Mr. Washington moved, Ms. Sosa seconded, and the motion carried 2-0 to elect Barbara Gaulien as Chair of the CRA Advisory Board for the FY 2021-2022.**

**Motion: Mr. Washington moved, Ms. Sosa seconded, and the motion carried 2-0 to elect Maria Sosa as Vice-Chair of the CRA Advisory Board for the FY 2021-2022.**

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### **5. COMMUNITY POLICING INITIATIVE PLAN (CIP) BUDGET**

Chief Scott Tyler reiterated the CRA mission to fight slum and blight, including funding Community Policing Programs and intensified patrolling over and above what the CRA community would normally receive to improve the quality of life for the citizens in the CRA. Chief Tyler also spoke of the effects of COVID on the police department during the second half of 2020 and early 2021.

CRA border starts roughly east of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Wal-Mart is included in the CRA, as well as a nightclub on 10<sup>th</sup> Street. The epicenter for the serious offenses (Part 1 crimes) is traditionally 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, near 11<sup>th</sup> Street and 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Over the past few years, crime has been moving west. Residential burglaries and burglaries into unlocked motor vehicles have increased due to desperate times. There has also been an increase in business robberies.

CRA provides salary and associated expenses such as a car and personnel expenses for six (6) full-time police officers out of twenty-four (24), and one (1) part-time officer. Chief Tyler is also asking for a Crime Stopper match of \$1000 if the crime happens in the CRA.

### **6. FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Jeff Burton, CRA Director described the CRA region, stating it is about 29% of the City, mostly on the east side of the City. The CRA Plan must comply with the City Comprehensive Plan, which is updated on a seven-year schedule. CRA staff is currently working on updates to the CRA Plan. He reminded everyone the #1 Rule of CRA's is *"if it is not in the Plan, we cannot do it."*

Mr. Burton went through a detailed explanation of the CRA budget by percentage and actual dollar amount. He explained that any money received from funding sources MUST go into the budget. This past year the CRA spent a lot of money purchasing land.

\$3.7 million is budgeted for Connor Park but CRA is expecting \$1.5 million returned in Southwest Florida Water Management District grants and tax credits. Material costs have been going up and the Connor Park project has been delayed. The other restricted funding project is the 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Complete Street Project. Staff will submit an application in September with the FDOT for 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue to be a "Main Street" in the future, supported by a Main Street Program managing and maintaining the historic downtown.

Debt expense, 9% of the budget, is for the property on Riverside Drive, which has always been intended for redevelopment, not to become a parking lot. Once the property is sold and the debt is repaid, the CRA will profit an additional \$2 million which could then be budgeted for housing, business improvement, or perhaps more work on the police department. The other secondary debt is approximately \$200,000 for about 28% ownership in the Lincoln Park Pool in conjunction with Manatee County. That \$200,000 debt will continue for another 10 years.

Mr. Washington stated the budget is consistent with the CRA plan that has been in effect through 2021. He asked specifically if the non-profit East Palmetto Women's Club could benefit from any of the CRA programs. Mr. Burton felt the structure itself needed quite a bit of repair, but the site would be great for redevelopment.

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Mr. Burton felt the structure itself needed quite a bit of repair, but the site would be great for redevelopment. Mr. Burton suggested the CRA could perhaps offer to trade locations, bringing the non-profit deeper into the community and off the main drive. Mr. Burton also introduced the concept of the Ring of Honor.

Maria Sosa asked what the CRA had planned for 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Mr. Burton said the CRA started transportation projects with 5<sup>th</sup> Street as a prototype. The next project was 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which started about 7-8 years ago, and if the State allows, the next project would be to expand 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 4-lanes. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue is owned by the Florida Department of Transportation, and it will be a much bigger project dealing with parking, traffic, intersections, traffic flow and businesses.

Mark Barnebey questioned if Mr. Burton held the position that the Police Department had not provided an adequate Community Policing Initiative Plan and the funds were being withheld in the budget. Mr. Burton confirmed that was his position and the message had been conveyed to Chief Tyler.

**Motion: Mr. Washington moved, Ms. Sosa seconded, and the motion carried 2-0 to recommend the Fiscal Year 2022 CRA Budget to the CRA Board, with the recommendation to withhold payment to the Palmetto Police Department until an appropriate Community Policing Initiative Plan has been put forth and accepted by the CRA.**

Ms. Sosa adjourned the meeting at 2:13 p.m.