

THAN
TAMPA HOMEOWNERS, AN ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2008
HELD AT KATE JACKSON CENTER IN HYDE PARK

The members and guests present are listed on the attendance roster.

1. President Wofford Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He asked for a moment of silence to reflect on our mission. He then asked that we pledge allegiance to the flag.
2. He asked the members and guests present to introduce themselves.
3. President Johnson introduced our guest, Mayor Pam Iorio. The Mayor began her remarks by noting that the Budget Process had begun. Its first public hearing at City Council overlapped our meeting. She said that the city had a loss of \$28 million in Property Tax revenue and a reduction in Sales Tax revenue also. The city lost 382 positions, an 8% personnel cut. She noted that she and her staff were being very careful with these cuts. They did not come from the police, the fire department, code enforcement or clean city. Indeed, investments in neighborhoods had increased. Unfortunately, Parks & Recreation was met with strategic cuts. All departments have less clerical support. When questioned, she contended that we do not have too much in reserve. She will make sure our fund balances are healthy because it helps our bond rating. Our reserves of \$70 million are adequate for a city of our size and location. She concluded her remarks and took questions from the floor. This began a wide ranging discussion of neighborhood issues. Topics discussed included the loss of historic property in Ybor City and the inability of Code Enforcement to deal with the problem. The Mayor suggested that we invite Jake Slater, Director of the Office of Code Enforcement, to our October Meeting to discuss these problems. The discussion continued with the observation that neighborhood organizations occasionally have difficulty communicating with the Department of Transportation. The Mayor was asked about her reaction to THAN's stated opposition to the TECO rate increases. She urged patience. On the subject of TECO, could they be stopped from massacring trees near power lines? The care given such trees by the city of Savannah was suggested as an example. The Mayor sympathized with our concern. The requirement that driveways on corner lots fronting neighborhoods go into the neighborhood instead of onto major streets is causing problems in the neighborhoods. The Mayor said that was a state requirement. The question of banks being held responsible for the upkeep of foreclosed properties was raised. How can we assure that empty properties be maintained? After much discussion on many such issues, the Mayor concluded by thanking the people of THAN for being such concerned citizens.
4. Norbert Holz reminded the assembly, on issues of crime in neighborhoods, that *Neighborhoods United Against Crime in Tampa* (NUACT), the successor to *Crimewatch*, meets on the first Monday of every month (unless it is a holiday – then it meets on the second Monday) rotating among the Tampa Police Department District Offices, D-1, D-2, D-3, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting of NUACTION is on Monday, October 6, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the District 2 location, at the corner of 30th and Annie Streets, next to Busch Gardens.

5. Norbert Holz also invited those who have problems with Code Enforcement to attend the *City of Tampa Code Enforcement Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting*. These meetings are held on the third Monday of the month (next on September 15, then October 20) from 6:00 p.m. till 7:00 p.m. at the Old Library Building in Tampa Heights, 102 East 7th Ave. Norbert noted that this advisory group was established at THAN's strong insistence. THAN members should utilize it.
6. Fredric Zerla gave the Secretary's Report. The Minutes of the August Meeting were approved as presented. The Secretary also reported that he had sent letters to remind associations that were THAN members last year but have not yet renewed their membership to do so. Last year, THAN had 44 members. So far this year, it has 31 and some of these are new.
7. Bill Duvall gave the Treasurer's Report. As August began, the account balance was %5037.69. During the month, he deposited ten membership checks at \$25@. The balance is now \$5287.69.
8. Zoning Committee chair, Margaret Vizzi, reported that the group will meet soon. She noted that Cathy Coyle will hold a workshop on Land Development (Zoning) from 6:00 till 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 17, in the Mascotte Room in City Hall.
9. Shannon Edge reported for the Office of Neighborhood & Community Relations. She and her staff prepared a list of "Important and Helpful (telephone) Numbers" for our use. She also announced the following upcoming events.
 - October 14, a Tuesday, the **Mayoral Town Hall Meeting** at Sulphur Springs Elementary School, 6:00 till 8:00 p.m.
 - November 22, a Saturday, the **Mayor's River Cleanup at Lowry Park Boat Ramp**. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. Please call the Mayor's Beautification Program for more information, (813) 221-8733.
 - December 10, a Wednesday, the **Mayor's Holiday Open House** at Union Station, 6:00 till 8:00 p.m.
10. The Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, October 8, from 7:00 till 9:00 p.m. at Union Station.

Respectfully submitted,

Fredric Zerla, Secretary