

**Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)**  
**Meeting of April 23, 2009**  
**9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**  
**South Bay City Hall**

**Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Denny Abbot, Workforce Alliance  
Corey Alston, City of South Bay  
Chief Michael Arena, PBC Fire-Rescue (PBCFR)  
Jacques Beaubrun, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)  
Capt. Andy Bilardello, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)  
Tish Burgher, QCA, Inc. (Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)  
Larry Caraccio, PBC Code Enforcement  
Kate Cole, PBC Division of Human Services (PBCDHS)  
Jan Cook, Workforce Alliance  
Raquel Diaz, City of South Bay  
Capt. Larry Easton, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)  
Karis Engle, Glades Initiative  
Kim Erickson, Canal Point Community Development  
William Francis, C3TS Transportation Group  
(Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)  
C. Shahid Freeman, Sr., PBC Activist  
Duane Gainer, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)  
Joe Glucksman, Quiet Waters Assisted Living Facility (ALF)  
Steven Jackson, Quiet Waters ALF  
Larry Johnson, St. Peter's United Methodist Church, Wellington  
Marilyn Jones, Pahokee Beacon Center  
Ed Kerr, City of South Bay  
Roy "Mike" McGinnis, PBC Department of Health  
LJ Margolis, PBC Parks & Rec/Glades Emergency Operating Area (EOA 1)  
Kwanzaa McCall, City of Belle Glade  
Natasha Mitchell, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)  
Lt. Michael Morris, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)  
Annette Parchment, City of Belle Glade  
Ted Roberts, City of Pahokee  
Debbie Simpson, PBC School District (PBCSD) Police  
Eric Stevenson, First Baptist Church, Belle Glade  
Steven Stokes, Target Engineering Group (Consultant for DOT)  
Houston Tate, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)  
Comm. Diane Walker, City of Pahokee / PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)  
Dr. Dorothy Walker, We Help CDC  
William Wynn, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

### **1. Welcome and Introductions:**

Duane Gainer welcomed the group on behalf of the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, County Administration, and the Office of Community Revitalization. Mr. Gainer introduced himself and asked the group to introduce themselves. Houston Tate thanked all partners for their attendance.

### **2. Review of Minutes:**

Minutes were reviewed. It was noted that the 9-1-1 Addressing Issue was changed to Correcting Residents' Street Addresses in the Glades.

### **3. Presentation:**

**Quiet Waters ALF**– Executive Director Joe Glucksman introduced Project Manager/Administrator Steve Jackson. Mr. Glucksman made the presentation. Since 2001, he has been working on the Quiet Waters project, formerly known as the McCurdy Center. It should be open and operating within the next 90 days. Developed by Landmark Development Corporation and McCurdy Senior Housing Corporation, Quiet Waters will be an affordable rental community providing assisted living services. Funding partners include Florida Housing Finance Corporation, Palm Beach County, City Real Estate Advisors as the syndicator of tax credits, National City and Fifth Third Banks, and Palm Beach County Housing Authority. Quiet Waters is located at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in Belle Glade between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Streets, near the old Lakeshore High School. Mr. Glucksman showed artists rendering of the 68,000 square foot building. The facility features 93 one-bedroom furnished apartments, a 12,500 square foot community service center and sits on 5.5 acres. The building is hurricane secure with a 600 kilowatt emergency generator. Amenities include a wellness center, beauty salon, computer center, security systems, medical offices, dining room, and more. Resident services include a private apartment, three meals plus snacks daily, housekeeping assistance with activities of daily living, organized activities, benefits advocacy and case management, coordination of medical care, and medications management. Community services may include congregate meals, nutritional counseling, adult day care, a venue for meetings and events and intergenerational activities. Quiet Waters will bring 30 new jobs to the Glades, in administration, dietary, maintenance, laundry, social services and personal care. All these jobs will be filled through the Belle Glade Workforce Alliance office. There is an annual estimated economic impact to Belle Glade of \$6.3 million plus property tax payments. The average resident profile, economically disadvantaged 62+ year old senior in need of care services and lacking a fixed nighttime residence. The residency criteria are mixed income limits of 60% of the area median income of \$31,680 and 30% of the area median income of \$15,800. The rental cost to the resident is 30% of his or her monthly social security check with the balance paid by a Section 8 voucher. The balance of the resident's social security check will be matched with State benefits to provide all services to the resident. The resident will receive a monthly allowance of \$54. Food, housekeeping, laundry and all other expenses will be provided at no additional cost to the resident. If a resident's medical needs exceed Quiet Water's level of care, the next step will be a nursing home. Quiet Waters will not be able to serve people with Alzheimer's. Potential residents will complete a one-page application and submit it to the Palm Beach County Housing Authority, who will process the applications and issue a first come, first

served waiting list number. Quiet Waters will begin admissions from the top of the waiting list. For more information, contact Mr. Glucksman or Mr. Jackson at 561-996-7040 or 561-966-7045.

#### **4. Participant Comments / Updates**

**Abidjan Estates** - C. Shahid Freeman, Sr., PBC Activist reported on a meeting he had in March with Palm Beach County Commissioner Jess Santamaria to overcome some barriers hindering the progress of Abidjan Estates. Abidjan Estates is affordable housing for professionals such as teachers, firefighters and law enforcement officers. He shared a letter regarding construction on Avenue G and stated that the Belle Glade City Commission has authorized the City Manager to seek funding for Avenue G. Mr. Freeman asked for assistance from the Office of Community Revitalization to get Avenue G shovel-ready, as it plays a major role in the Abidjan Estates project. He stated that \$15 million has been committed to Abidjan Estates, but will not be released until the road issue is resolved. Mr. Gainer asked Jacques Beaubrun if FDOT can help with the Avenue G issue. Mr. Beaubrun replied that Mr. Gainer should present the request to the District Office. Tish Burgher recommended the Avenue G project be brought to the attention of MPO. **ACTION ITEM: Mr. Tate and Michael Jackson will further discuss the project and the request.** Steven Stokes will help Dr. Dorothy Walker develop a cost estimate for Avenue G.

**Pelican Lake** - Larry Caraccio, PBC Code Enforcement, reported that, in response to the complaint Code Enforcement received about a congregate living facility existing illegally at the Pelican Lake site, code officers have visited the site multiple times. At this point, they have not observed any violations that would relate to that complaint. Mr. Tate reported that Kate Cole's Human Services office has stepped in to assist residents who needed to relocate, and thanked her for stepping in so quickly and well. Office of Equal Opportunity has filed a legal complaint against Pelican Lake, Alston Management, The Miracle Group and Matthew 25 Ministries.

**PBC Fire-Rescue** – Battalion Chief Mike Arena reported that Fire-Rescue is close to occupancy for Belle Glade Fire Station. An Open House will be held sometime in the fall. Estimated move-in is mid- to late June.

**Truancy Committee** – Mr. Tate reported that the Truancy Committee has met twice. They are trying to strengthen the relationship between the Palm Beach County School District and PBSO. They are hoping to meet with the courts to discuss how important it is to work together and assist Commissioner Diane Walker of PBSO in her work addressing truancy. The committee consists of PBSO Capt. Andy Bilardello, PBC School District Linda Camardella, PBSO Warren "Skip" Reasoner, PBC BCC Glades Liaison Michael Jackson, PBSO Lt. Michael Morris.

**Keane's Mobile Home Park** – Mr. Tate made reference to issues that had been brought to him regarding Keane's Mobile Home Park. He established a committee consisting of Ted Roberts and Roswell Harrington. **ACTION ITEM: Mr. Roberts is to report back with synopsis of exactly what the issues are and what the needs are.**

**Canal Point Community Development** – Kim Erickson reported that she has been working on the Street Addressing project with Capt. Prusansky and is pleased with the progress. She is watching the sewer project; there is a rumor that the entire system may not be put in, but rather will stop short of the commercial area, where it is truly needed. She stated that Water Utilities is

scheduled for a meeting tonight where this will be clarified. **ACTION ITEM: Ms. Erickson will report back to GTAC the status of the sewer project.**

**Human Services** - Kate Cole reported that Palm Beach County Human Services and Belle Glade Senior Services will be assisting in community action with low income home energy assistance money for electric or gas payments. There is a crisis component and a non- crisis component to the program. People may call Ms. Cole's office at 561-996-1630 for an appointment and to find out what they need to bring in.

**Glades Initiative** - Karis Engle reminded attendees that Glades Initiative can help disseminate information on meetings, activities and programs related to the Glades, especially regarding health and human services. She reported that there will be a Food Security for the Glades Area program through the Palm Beach Community Food Alliance. Organizations interested in becoming involved must send a representative to a 2 ½ hour class in food handling, to be held 9:30 to noon Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at the Ag Cooperative at the UF Experimental Station on SR 880 in Belle Glade. Ms. Engle also reported that Glades Initiative has hosted meetings for directors of non-profit agencies looking at the impact of the economy on delivery of health and human services. She reported that there will be changes impacting afterschool services, involving eligibility, prices and provider reimbursement. She urged attendees to stay actively engaged to be aware of the changes and address them. Information can be sent to Glades Initiative at [updates@gladesinitiative.org](mailto:updates@gladesinitiative.org).

**Belle Glade** - Annette Parchment thanked Mr. Tate and his staff for all of their efforts in the funding allocations through 501(c)3 organizations in Belle Glade. She reported that PBSO Explorers had received funding to replace playground equipment, pavilions and barbecue grills, and to add signage at Lion's and Mace Parks. The Paint Your Heart Out program is also funded through the Office of Community Revitalization. Ms. Parchment introduced Neighborhood Resource Specialist Kwanzaa McCall, who wants to establish a neighborhood watch program in the Covenant Village area. **ACTION ITEM: OCR has a PowerPoint and will train Belle Glade city staff to help establish a neighborhood association.**

**Community Policing** – Mr. Freeman asked about the status of Community Policing. PBSO Lt. Michael Morris stated that at one time there were six community deputies in the Glades, but now there are only two. The closest community policing site to Covenant Village is at Okeechobee Center.

**Collaborative Missions** – Larry Johnson, St. Peter's United Methodist Church, Wellington, reported that the church has started a program called Collaborative Missions. Teen mission groups have been sent to North Carolina, Tennessee and Costa Rica. This year they want to focus on a local activity, collaborating with others that already have programs in place. They have partnered with First Baptist Church of Belle Glade through Eric Stevenson. Other churches throughout Florida are interested in bringing youth mission groups to the area this summer. They would like to identify several homes that they can assist with painting, roofing, and other projects. Christ Fellowship Church will bring a group of about 250 in July for a week. People may contact Mr. Johnson at 561-301-9708 to let him know of projects that need help. **ACTION ITEM: OCR staff will provide the contact information for the community development**

**representatives from each of the three Glades cities. Dr. Walker of We Help CDC offered to donate a half pallet of roofing shingles to Collaborative Missions.**

**Workforce Alliance** - Denny Abbott reported that Workforce Alliance is monitoring several construction projects in the area. They are also holding a summer youth employment program for youth ages 18-24 interested in a summer job. Youth will be trained before starting the job. This program is funded through stimulus money. Employers interested in offering a summer job may call Doug Green or Jan Cook at Workforce Alliance at 561-829-2040.

**Department of Transportation** - William Francis introduced himself as Senior Project Engineer for the SR 700 project. Jacques Beaubrun stated that the work on 700 may affect the traveling public as sections of roadway gets shut down for construction. Steve Stokes reported that improvements have been made to Triangle Park in South Bay, restoring the fountain and lighting. The next project will be SR 80 / SR 15 in Belle Glade from Hooker's Highway to Canal Street. There will be detours while the bridge deck is removed. He stated that the railroad crossing at Hooker's Highway and SR 80 will be closed this weekend. If people have questions about FDOT projects, they may contact Tish Burgher at 954-325-8022.

**Correcting Residents' Street Addresses in the Glades** - Duane Gainer updated attendees on the progress of the project.

**Pahokee Events** – Comm. Diane Walker reported that there will be a Family Awareness event on Monday, April 27 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Pahokee Middle-High School 6 p.m. Also, there will be Restoration of Rights Training on May 16 from 1 to 4 p.m. in Pahokee. Ted Roberts reported that on Saturday, April 25 there will be an Earth Day Celebration at the Pahokee Marina from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Other Events** - Ted Roberts suggested that non-profit organizations contact Jennifer Beckman of the Disaster Recovery Coalition regarding a non-profit fair to be held May 6 at the Palm Beach County Convention Center from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on How to Prepare Your Organization for a Hurricane. He stated that there will be a conference in St. Petersburg which will be good for promoting neighborhood associations.

**Post Office** – A rumor that the Pahokee Post Office may close was discussed. Comm. Walker stated that the Postmaster is not aware of any closing; they've just renewed the lease. Lt. Morris stated that there is discussion of cutting back the hours of all US Post Offices.

**Pahokee Beacon Center** – Marilyn Jones reported that they have received a "Counselors in Training" Grant to place youth in positions throughout the County, helping them learn professionalism and other skills to be ready to enter the workplace. She stated that there will be a Community Baby Shower on June 13, 2009 for pregnant women and women with children from birth through age 5. The purpose is to connect women to specialized services to let them know what free services are available. Dads are encouraged to attend and there will be a Daddy diapering contest.

**Neighborhood Partnership Grant (NPG)** – Duane Gainer reported that the letter of intent for the NPG is due by 5 p.m. April 24, 2009. The letter should be submitted to Chrystal Matthews. Visit [www.pbcgov.org/ocr](http://www.pbcgov.org/ocr) for the letter of intent. The REAP graduation will be held May 9, 2009. Letters were sent to Pahokee & Belle Glade regarding funds requested of OCR. The deadline to go to the Board of County Commissioners has passed.

**The next GTAC meeting will be held at the Canal Point Community Center, Thursday, May 28, 2009, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

Minutes prepared by LJ Margolis and Duane Gainer

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**Approved By Houston Tate, Director**