

**Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)**  
**Meeting of June 25, 2009**  
**9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**  
**Belle Glade City Hall**

**Minutes**

**Attendees:**

David Allen, Florida Rural Area Construction Co-Op  
Tish Burgher, QCA, Inc. (Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)  
Chief Gary Burroughs, PBC Fire Rescue (PBFR)  
Karis Engle, Glades Initiative  
Mary Evans, City of Belle Glade  
Duane Gainer, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)  
Suzanne Harper, EDGE Center  
Roswell Harrington, Canal Point Resident / Keene Mobile Home Park  
Michael Jackson, PBC Board of County Commissioners (PBCBCC)  
Steven Jackson, Quiet Waters ALF  
Lt. Chris Keane, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)  
Kwanza McCall, Belle Glade Weed & Feed  
Roy "Mike" McGinnis, PBC Department of Health  
LJ Margolis, PBC Parks & Rec / Glades Emergency Operating Area (EOA 1)  
Kathryn McNealy, Community Action Program  
Annette Parchment, City of Belle Glade  
Millie Rueda, Pahokee Beacon Center  
Scott Ryder, C3TS Architects  
(Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)  
Steven Stokes, Target Engineering Group  
(Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation DOT)  
Jeff Tarr, Pahokee Resident  
Javier Trejada, EDGE Center  
William Wynn, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

**Youth Entrepreneur Success Attendees:**

Frank Brown  
Sharla Bynes  
Lisa Grana  
Samantha King  
Tremia King  
Natasha Mendoza  
Claytrilla Moore  
Monique Pierre  
Lillian Polanco  
Samaya Robinson  
Nateria Ruffin  
Antkeria Smith

Paul Smith  
Travetta Smith  
Crystal Sterling  
Roshonda Terry  
Javarius Tillman  
Jamey Wallace  
Deneva Williams  
Markavious Williams  
Ciarnisha Young

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Duane Gainer introduced himself, welcomed attendees on behalf of the Palm Beach County Board of County Commission, Palm Beach County Administration, and Palm Beach County Office of Community Revitalization, and asked the group to introduce themselves.

**2. Review of Minutes**

Minutes of the May 28, 2009 meeting were reviewed. Corrections were made to the spelling of Keene Mobile Home Park and Hooker Highway.

**3. Discussion / Updates**

**Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** - Kathryn McNealy, LIHEAP Supervisor, reported on this project of Palm Beach County's Community Service Department's Community Action Program (CAP), which has eight offices throughout the county. LIHEAP can help people with financial relief for home energy costs up to three times per year for a maximum of \$900 over the year. The basic benefit is based on income and family size. There are crisis benefits available during cooling and heating seasons. CAP has received \$3.7 million in stimulus money to be spent by March 2010. There is an Elderly Home Energy Assistance program for seniors who have a final notice or cut-off notice. Referrals may be made to the Pahokee CAP office at 561-924-7232, the South Bay/Belle Glade office at 561-996-6721, or the administrative office at 561-355-4792. Another stimulus package will be coming through in the near future which will provide rental assistance. That program should be running by August. Visit MyFlorida.com or <http://pbcgov.org/communityservices/programs/communityaction/> for more information.

**Correcting Addresses in the Glades** – Chief Gary Burroughs reported on behalf of Captain Craig Prusansky. The changes to the address database at the Clewiston Post Office are now complete for the Lake Harbor residents. In Canal Point, the door-to-door visits have been put on a two-week hold due to an urgent mapping project to increase the accuracy of Fire and Sheriff Dispatch System over the entire Glades area. The next section of door-to-door visits will be odd addresses on Everglades Street from Pahokee city limits to Connors Highway. April Warren from County Planning, Zoning and Building has requested a petition from affected residents along the section of highway that is to be renamed "Connors Highway" in order to effect the change. The Glades Area 9-1-1 Addressing Project website at <http://can911findyou.kkpss.info/> has been updated and contains current information on the progress of the project.

Mr. Harrington reported that Animal Care and Control is unable to find the Keene Mobile Home Park addresses. **ACTION ITEM: OCR will find out what addressing system animal Care and Control uses.**

**Truancy** – Judge Nelson Bailey will return from vacation Monday, June 29. **ACTION ITEM: Mr. Tate will attempt to schedule a meeting with him after that time.**

**Neighborhood Partnership Grant** – The total amount of the NPG matching grant available is \$20,000 per project. The match can be through volunteer hours, donations and other means besides money. The grant is administered by the Office of Community Revitalization. It is not required that grant applicants be a 501(c) 3 or other official organization.

**Transitional Housing** – Roswell Harrington met with Corneshia Dukes of the Pahokee Beacon Center who said that she will research possible avenues of assistance with the transitional housing issue. Current regulations are that mobile homes must be Windstorm 3 rated, built 2005 or later, and tied down. The primary problem at this time is that set-up costs can be prohibitive. The committee is still looking at funding issues.

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

**Department of Transportation** - Steve Stokes reported that another DOT project will be started at SR 15 off SR 80, starting at Hooker Highway and continuing south to West Canal Street South. There will be local detours and, beginning July 27, a 40-day closure at the Hillsboro Canal.

Tish Burgher reported that US 27 work is progressing; with the north side of the bridge is now carrying traffic. The South Bay project of road work, landscaping and sidewalks is almost complete. Belle Glade's SR 80 project is on schedule. Ms. Burgher reported that the French drains and galley gutters, an area of concern in Canal Point, are necessary to drain the water off the roadways. She spoke with Jacques Beaubrun who said that they have been constructed to standard specifications and that if people are traveling at the posted speed limit they should be able to cross them without bottoming out. Mr. Harrington stated that the drains at Third Street in Canal Point pose the major concern. Jeff Tarr wondered what the cost difference is between "decorative" sidewalk and standard poured concrete sidewalk. **ACTION ITEM: Ms. Burgher takes a second look at the French drains in the Third Street area and will find out the sidewalk cost difference.**

Scott Ryder reported on the SR 700 project. An open house is in the planning stages to let the public know the plans for the project. In the downtown urban area, sidewalks have been torn out. The urban area portion should be finished by August, and then the rural section will begin. Mr. Harrington asked that the southeast entrance to the Canal Point Post Office be looked at, as the grade is very steep, resulting in cars bottoming out. **ACTION ITEM: Mr. Ryder will check into that issue.**

**Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue** - Chief Burroughs reported that the new Belle Glade Fire Station should be ready for occupancy by the week of June 29. Mr. Gainer stated that the Canal Point leadership would like to have input into the placement of that area's new fire station. Chief Burroughs stated that he has been notified that the location will be the old School of Choice. **ACTION ITEM: Kim Erickson, Canal Point Community Development, should put together a letter for Commissioner Santamaria's office via Michael Jackson.**

**Glades Initiative** - Karis Engle reported that from 2 to 6 p.m. on June 25 there will be a How Can We Help day at Martin Luther King Park in Pahokee for people seeking health and human services. Another meeting will be held at Mt. Zion AME Church that same evening, titled Why Are Our Black Babies Dying? Send any health and human service meeting and event information to [updates@gladesinitiative.org](mailto:updates@gladesinitiative.org). To be added to the eblast list, send contact information to the same email address.

**Belle Glade** - Mary Jo Walker reported that **Paint Your Heart Out Phase I** will wrap up this week. Anyone needing their house painted should contact the City of Belle Glade at 561-996-0100. Mary Evans reported that a **prescription discount program** will launch early July. Last week the City of Belle Glade held a **SummerFest**, and there will be another on July 17.

**Office of Community Revitalization** - Mr. Gainer stated that there is a **Neighborhood Home Beautification** program through the Office of Community Revitalization. They will repair, landscape and paint a group of houses in the same neighborhood for a noticeable improvement. William Wynn coordinates the program. Mr. Gainer reported that **South Bay** has a new city manager Corey Alston and a new community development director Raquel Diaz. He stated that South Bay has received funds from OCR for road projects, Pahokee has asked OCR for funds to help with a fairground and storage facility, and **Belle Glade** received funds from OCR for sewer repairs.

**EDGE Center** - Suzanne Harper reported on the Youth Entrepreneur Success (YES) program and the live auction they will hold July 1 through August 6, 2009. Visit [YesOnlineAuction.com](http://YesOnlineAuction.com) for more information and to participate. Twenty-one students in the YES program attended today's GTAC meeting.

**Habitat for Humanity** - Lt. Chris Keane reported that Habitat for Humanity is working toward forming a Glades affiliate and is looking at potentially building 40 to 60 homes. Commissioner Jess Santamaria is involved in the project. As the project progresses, updates will continue and volunteers will be recruited.

**Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Youth Activities** - Lt. Keane reported that **First Tee** summer camp has finished. **Harmony in the Streets** summer camps are also scheduled. **Putting Kids First** is scheduled for July 25. The location is still to be determined.

**Quiet Waters** - Steve Jackson reported that Quiet Waters held a pre-open house this month. The facility is scheduled to open late July. The perfect candidate is 62 or older receiving social security or disability. Mr. Jackson invited attendees to take a tour of the facility.

**Florida Rural Area Construction Coop** – David Allen reported that there is a concerted effort to use more local contractors and businesses in the Glades, and that funds are available for façade improvement projects.

**Canal Point** – Mr. Harrington reported that construction has begun on the Canal Point sewer system. He stated that about 20 years ago, the PBC Health Department mandated that there could be no commercial development in Canal Point without a new sewer project.

**Pahokee** – Mr. Harrington reported that Pahokee received funds for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. On July 2 there will be a fishing contest. On July 4 there will be an event with car show, open mic, food, Splash Park and activities.

**Networking** – Mr. Tarr suggested that attendees be sure to bring their business cards to the meetings to maximize networking opportunities.

**The next GTAC meeting will be held at the Pahokee Senior Center (old high school), Thursday, July 23, 2009, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

Minutes prepared by LJ Margolis and Duane Gainer

  
Approved by Houston L. Tate, Director