



**PALM BEACH COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION**

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**COUNTYWIDE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION TEAM VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**

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Meeting Title: Countywide Community Revitalization Team Meeting  
Facilitator: Houston Tate, OCR Director  
Minutes Prepared by: William Wynn, OCR Senior Planner  
Date/Time: October 12, 2021  
Location: WebEx Virtual Meeting

**MEETING ATTENDANCE**

- |     |                    |                                                                       |
|-----|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | Joanna Aiken       | Solid Waste Authority                                                 |
| 2.  | Peretheiura Baker  |                                                                       |
| 3.  | Jayme Bosio        | PBC Library System                                                    |
| 4.  | Elyse Brown        | PBC Fire Rescue                                                       |
| 5.  | Teesha Buddle      | Congresswoman Lois Frankel Florida's 21 <sup>st</sup> District Office |
| 6.  | W. Carroll         |                                                                       |
| 7.  | Marie Charleus     | Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition                         |
| 8.  | Samantha Corr      | PBC ERM                                                               |
| 9.  | Adam Davis         | PBC Library System                                                    |
| 10. | Deputy J. Fresneda | PBSO                                                                  |
| 11. | Randee Gabriel     | 211                                                                   |
| 12. | Leisa Hall         | The Salvation Army                                                    |
| 13. | Chrystal Mathews   | PBC OCR                                                               |
| 14. | Ruth Moguillansky  | PBC OCR                                                               |
| 15. | Fadi Nassar        | PBC Traffic Engineering                                               |
| 16. | Michael Owens      | School District of PBC                                                |
| 17. | Amy Pettway        |                                                                       |
| 18. | Maura Plante       | Living Hungry                                                         |
| 19. | Nohemi Polanco     |                                                                       |
| 20. | Ike Powell         | PBC Youth Services                                                    |
| 21. | Casey Pranckun     | PBC Parks & Recreation                                                |
| 22. | Audley Reid        | PBC OCR                                                               |
| 23. | Tera Rose          | Community Partners of South Florida                                   |
| 24. | Vivian Ryland      | PBC OCR                                                               |
| 25. | George Schott      | PBC OCR                                                               |
| 26. | Sherry             |                                                                       |
| 27. | Michael Sklar      | PBC Department of Housing and Economic Development                    |
| 28. | Houston Tate       | PBC OCR                                                               |
| 29. | Greg Thompson      |                                                                       |
| 30. | William Wynn       | PBC OCR                                                               |

# MEETING MINUTES

## I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Houston Tate, OCR Director, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

William Wynn, OCR Senior Planner, introduced the CCRT members.

Mr. Tate introduced the guest speaker for the meeting Major Leisa Hall, Palm Beach Area Commander with The Salvation Army of Palm Beach County.

## II. PRESENTATION

### **Major Leisa Hall, Palm Beach Area Commander with The Salvation Army of Palm Beach County**

Major Hall began her presentation by going over some items the general public relates to the Salvation Army (TSA), such as the kettles during the holidays, the Salvation Army working with someone in poverty, the Salvation Army store, disaster relief assistance, the feeding line, the Angel Tree program (toys for Kids) and the music program, which is a huge part of the Salvation Army.

Major Hall shared some little known facts about TSA, some of which are listed below.

- The Salvation Army flag went to the moon with Captain John W. Young, USN, commander of Apollo 16 which landed on the moon in April 1972.
- Guys and Dolls first Broadway musical featured TSA.
- The Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) - residential alcoholic rehabilitation program is the largest in the U.S, and helps more than 2.5 million families each year through 10,000 centers worldwide.
- The TSA assists well over 30 million individuals nationwide throughout the year.
- One of The Salvation Army's leaders, General Evangeline Booth, appeared alongside Wonder Woman in two issues of the comic book
- One single TSA officer was responsible for closing Devil's Island
- All requests regarding assistance sent to Whitehouse are forwarded to TSA.

TSA began in London in 1865. The founder, a Methodist minister named William Booth, walked the streets preaching to the homeless, the hungry and the destitute. Booth's efforts became the Salvation Army, set out to offer compassionate, tangible service to people in need. The movement followed a quasi-military structure with Booth as its first General. As The Salvation Army spread, it became known as one of the largest providers of humanitarian aid. Today, The Salvation Army meets the physical and spiritual needs of people in more than 130 countries around the world, without discrimination.s

After witnessing a Cab Horse Charter collapse and people coming to its rescue, Mr. Booth made two salient points:When the horse is down, he is helped up, and while he lives he has food, shelter and work. These simple illustrations continue to function as important prompts to the nature of social work in The Salvation Army. Mr. Booth wrote the book In Darkest England, and The Way Out, which was his attempt at publicising dire situation of the impoverished lower classes in England.

Within its pages, Mr. Booth laid out a very thorough and well thought out creative approach to handling poverty by which the Salvation Army operated. Booth categorises various people who

approach the organisation for assistance, from the misfortunate who are out of work, to those with alcohol and substance abuse problems, to petty criminals seeking to reform their ways. To this day, the swift development of an organised response to the various causes of poverty forms part of the organisation's success.

- The Salvation Army Social Campaign was Mr. Booth's plan to pull people out of generational poverty.
- The match factories during this time used phosphorus to make the matches. Mr. Booth noticed the horrible working conditions at these factories so he researched and found a way to make matches without phosphorus. He then opened the Matchbox, his own match factory, as a shame tactic to show the other factories that there was a way to make matches without harming people. Because of this, the other match factories had to offer a safer way of making matches. Once this happened Mr. Booth closed his match factory.
- TSA during this time also fought against child slavery/child white slavery. This is where young children were sold into prostitution and it was legal to buy a child at the age of 13. TSA leaders began working with William Thomas Stead, a famous publisher. He published a number of articles to bring this spiritual evil to the light and help people understand what was happening. Because of this TSA lobbied Parliament to change the law. The Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1885 was passed raising the age from 13 to 16. TSA today is working to stop all human trafficking even here in Palm Beach County.
- TSA Original International Headquarters was started in London, England near St. Paul's Cathedral. About 30 years TSA was going to sell the property and relocate but Parliament asked them to stay. A Japanese company came in with a business plan and asked TSA if you let us build on your property we will build you a new headquarters with a 200 year lease. The present day International Headquarters: London, England was built at no cost to TSA.

**The Salvation Army Mission** - The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

- In the USA, TSA is divided into four different territories.
  - Central Headquarters, Des Plaines, IL
  - Eastern Headquarters, West Nyack, NY
  - Southern Headquarters, Atlanta, GA. The National Headquarters, Alexandria, VA is also located in this territory. This territory consists of 15 states.
  - Western Headquarters, Long Beach, CA
- Services provided in Palm Beach County by The Salvation Army, include:
  - Worship Centers (West Palm Beach, Lake Worth and Boca Boca Raton)
  - Northwest Community Center
  - Center of Hope – Emergency Family Shelter
  - Center of Hope – Veteran's Program
  - Center of Hope – Parks to Work Program
  - Center of Hope – Residential Re-Entry Program
  - Emergency Services (operates from Area Command. all Corps and Belle Glade)

The *Center of Hope* is a residential facility that consist of three buildings. One main building and two separate apartment buildings. There is a total capacity for 159 occupants. This facility also houses multiple programs (Emergency Family Shelter, Veteran's Program, Parks to Work Program and Residential Re-Entry Program).

The *Northwest Community Center* serves up to 75 children come year round. During the school year after school, trained staff provide tutoring. During the summer and school breaks there is day camp.

*Emergency Assistance* is provided in various locations for people that need help with rent, utilities, food, clothing and referrals to other organizations

*Christmas Assistance* (Angel Tree) Program - Through this program TSA will help about 2500 children

*Emergency Disaster Services* – TSA provides services during and after disasters. (Hurricanes, fires, floods, tornadoes, etc.)

*Family Stores* – There are two family stores located in PBC. The family stores take donations to help fund programs. In addition, vouchers are given to people to come here for clothes.

- Palm Beach County Area Commanders include:
  - Majors James & Leisa Hall
  - Lieutenants Denzell & Erika McClain (West Palm Beach)
  - Lieutenants Jeremy & Crystal Porter (Lake Worth)
  - Majors Serge & Celimene LaLanne (Boca Raton)
- The Salvation Army Ranking System include:
  - Cadet
  - Lieutenant
  - Captain
  - Major
  - Lt. Colonel
  - Colonel
  - Commissioner
  - General

Note: A copy of the complete PowerPoint Presentation in pdf format is enclosed at the end of the minutes.

#### **Questions/Comments:**

- Maura Plante, CEO/Founder of Living Hungry, inquired about the new food initiatives that TSA has. Major Hall replied that she and Mr. Hall have a vision of opening a food co-op. An old motto of TSA “A hand up not a hand out,” and a food coop will give people a partnership opportunity to help them lift themselves out of poverty. A food co-op will not just be giving out food but also teaching skills and meaningful work so those in need can provide for themselves. TSA does not have anything active at this time but is open to suggestions.
- Mr. Tate asked Ms. Plante to share some of the things that Living Hungry has going on at this time. Ms. Plante replied that Living Hungry has a Food is Medicine program where they use food to reverse the effects of diabetes in food insecure clients. This medically curated set of groceries is to the dose to what people should eat to reverse diabetes. This is a four to five month program for the client and the client’s family. The program is in its third cycle and is having a lot of success. The program will be launched again on October 26 at the Pelican Club, 1065 N Hwy A1A, Jupiter, FL 33477. Clients are referred through clinics, nurses and doctors. Ms. Plante stated that if any organizations have potential clients to please feel free to refer them to her via an email to [maura@livinghungry.org](mailto:maura@livinghungry.org)

Living Hungry now has thorn supplements and health tech tests available (blood, saliva and bile duct). Following testing, a client profile will be completed, and there will be custom supplement sets sent directly to the client. This program is currently looking for around sixty clients. Approximately \$2,000 is spent per client.

- Marie Charleus, representing the PBC Behavioral Health Coalition, asked if a person without a primary doctor but who is diabetic could be referred to the Living Hungry program. Ms. Plante replied yes, but that her organization would have to connect the potential client with a doctor or a nurse practitioner before participating in the program because it is difficult to treat a diabetic without knowing what specific treatment and/or medications are involved.

### III. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- Fadi Nassar, PBC Traffic Engineering
  - Waiting on a copy of the approved agenda item for speed hump projects (Cannogate, Plantation, and San Castle)
  - Traffic, along with the OCR, is in the process of sending petitions to Country Club Acres property owners. Mr. Tate advised that he spoke with PBC Road and Bridge and they are waiting and ready to move forward
  - Traffic is preparing plans for the sidewalk project in San Castle
- Joanna Aiken, SWA
  - Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful is now part of SWA
  - 152 & You Challenge – If each person in America picked up 152 pieces of litter, the USA would be litter free. This information is on [swa.org](http://swa.org) If any person or student need community service hours they can participate in this challenge
  - PYHO is currently painting at least one house a month, mostly in CCRT areas
  - A home painting event is being scheduled for Limestone Creek for some time in December
  - SWA will keep OCR updated on PYHO locations for anyone who would be interested
  - Mr. Tate thanked the SWA for two projects (PYHO & Adopt-a-Spot) in Gramercy Park. Ms. Aiken reminded Mr. Tate to have Leroy Rouse return his application so he can get the supplies for Gramercy Park.
- Samantha Corr, PBC ERM
  - ERM is currently conducting aerial spraying for mosquitos. No health related issues. ERM has sprayed so far Jupiter, Palm Beach Gardens, and the western 2/3 of the Acreage, Loxahatchee and Wellington. The eastern 1/3 and the Glades areas still need to be sprayed. The spray zone is from Military Trail to the west. This is where the floodwater mosquitos are.
  - There will be a free haunted hike at North Jupiter Flat Woods on October 29<sup>th</sup>.
  - The LagoonFest will be on Saturday, November 6, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., along Flagler Drive in downtown West Palm Beach. Stop by exhibitor booths, see a live bird release, go on a kayak clean-up tour, do boat tours, sip a few cold ones in the beer garden, and have family fun in the kid's zone. This is a free event.
- Michael Sklar, PBC HED
  - HED has completed accepting 150 applications for the purchase assistance program. This program is now closed.
  - HED received 50 applications for the owner occupied rehabilitation program and is still accepting applications for the foreclosure prevention program.

- HED will start the emergency repair program on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Grants will be available for up to \$30,000, and only 25 applications will be accepted for this program
- Adam Davis, PBC Library System
  - The second of a four part virtual series for college prep workshop will be on October 12<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. These virtual series will also be held in November and December. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87586275619?pwd=cjUxOE9KcG4yTHJJVWNsQ1VIZTdGQT09#success> & access code: PTCollege
  - Hispanic Heritage Month activities: <http://events.pbclibrary.org/events/digital-activities/oct/hispanic-heritage-month-2021>
  - On October 26 there will be an online cooking class given by the library system
  - Passports are still begin done at the main library, located at 3650 Summit Blvd., WPB, FL
  - Assistance is still being provided throughout the library system with the completion of emergency rental assistance applications
- Elyse Brown, PBC Fire Rescue
  - Fire Rescue has gotten the approval to begin in person presentations with COVID precautions for Fire Rescue and the audienc
  - Ms. Brown stated that Fire Rescue would like to look into the best ways for them to collaborate on community initiatives with other organizations.
  - Fadi Nassar stated that Traffic received inquiries from HOAs that received letters from Fire Rescue requesting them to replace the speed bumps/humps with approved county speed bumps/humps on their private roads. Ms. Brown replied these requests were made by Fire Rescue to address getting their apparatus in and out of the communities and how the response speed is affected in these communities. Ms. Brown got Mr. Nassar's email address to forward him the contact information for the person he needs to talk to further about this.
  - Mr. Tate stated that OCR need to discuss a future meeting in Roan Lane and determine who needs to attend. Ms. Brown responded she will coordinate with him.

#### IV. OCR UPDATES

- Vivian Ryland, Senior Planner
  - The Resident Empowered Program is a program to help residents who would like to learn how to organize and advocate for their community.
  - On October 9<sup>th</sup>, the Resident Empowered Program completed its fourth class on Be Prepared, Be Safe!
  - On October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9am the fifth class will be held, an it will focus on Asset Mapping & Neighborhood Plans and how they help with organizing a community
  - In 2022, OCR would like to conduct the Resident Empowered Program in person.
  - On October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> OCR staff attended the Tamarak Institute's virtual conference on: RECONNECT! Making Community Essential
- William Wynn, Senior Planner
  - Seminole Manor street lighting project was approved the BCC on October 5, 2021.
- Chrystal Mathews, Senior Planner
  - OCR is continuing to work on the CCRT Reassessment Report
- Ruth Moguillansky, OCR Principal Planner
  - Inquired from HED if there is a housing program that specifically deals with code violations. Mr. Sklar advised that HED have no program to specifically correct code

violations. He also advised that through their other housing programs if a code violation happens to exist it would be corrected, but there is no program to address specifically code violations.

- Ms. Mognillansky stated that she is working on the development of a program along with Mr. Wynn to specifically address code violations, and she hopes this program to help low income homeowners in the communities the OCR serves, with a focus on the elderly, disabled and veterans.

## V. RESIDENT QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- Tera Rose, representing Community Partners of South Florida, inquired about how she could get help for a homeless family of six in the Glades area. Mr. Davis responded that he followed up with her on October 12th regarding this family. He also stated that he contacted Wendy Tippett, Doss and Human Services Division Director, in the Community Services Department, and she had staff to reach out to the family. Community Services staff advised that the family have been living for two weeks in a hotel. He also followed up via voicemail with Ms. Tippett to see if there is anything else that can be done.

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Tate advised that James Green, Director of PBC Community Services Department, informed that the homeless family had received an additional week's stay at the hotel where the family currently states.

OCR would like to thank Ms. Rose for attending the CCRT meeting and advocating for the Cunningham family. The OCR also thanks James Green and staff for securing the longer hotel stay, and Adam Davis, Director of System Services, for following up with resolving this important accommodation. T

Ms. Rose would like to thank everyone for their commitment to fighting homelessness. Ms. Rose would like to share that she is still working with the family to secure a more suitable accommodation. Hopefully by Friday, October 22, 2021 the family will be able to move into a 4/2 in Belle Glade, if \$480 is paid. This is prorated rent. The landlord was still working on fixing and painting. Ms. Rose visited the house on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup>. The home currently has no stove or refrigerator. The Lord's Place has accepted the challenge of providing some of the needed items. However, the family is still in need of furniture. Over the past weekend, the family has received \$250 from Community Partners to assist with food expenses. In the very near future Ms. Rose reached out to James Green, Director, Community Services for relocation funds of \$6,000 or more to assist this family. Ms. Rose is also collaborating with Community Service and OCR to procure services and is working with the family trying to acquire household items. The Office of Community Revitalization (OCR) provided frozen chickens, food, fruits, and vegetable to the family on Friday, October 22, 2021.

- Randee Gabriel, 211 representative, reminded all agencies to please notify 211 when a new program is being implemented or requirements for participation change so that the data system can be updated.
- PBC Salvation Army - <https://salvationarmyflorida.org/westpalmbeach/>
- Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition - <https://www.pbcchamps.com/>

*The meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.*

*Approved by: Houston L. Tate, OCR Director \_\_\_\_\_*