



**PALM BEACH COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION**

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**Countywide Community Revitalization Team 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: September 17, 2019  
Location: 2300 N Jog Rd., Room 1E-60, West Palm Beach, FL 33411

**Meeting Attendance:**

- |     |                     |                              |
|-----|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1.  | Joanna Aiken        | SWA                          |
| 2.  | Abraham Belzin      | Honest Abe Movers            |
| 3.  | Deputy Bickunas     | PBSO                         |
| 4.  | Vivian Brooks       | PBC OCR                      |
| 5.  | Deputy Cassie       | PBSO                         |
| 6.  | Keith Clinkscale    | PBC OFMB                     |
| 7.  | Deputy Cruz         | PBSO                         |
| 8.  | Adam Davis          | PBC Library                  |
| 9.  | Deputy Forde        | PBSO                         |
| 10. | Deputy Fresneda     | PBSO                         |
| 11. | Sgt. Hightower      | PBSO                         |
| 12. | Violet Howard       | Optimistic Journey Inc.      |
| 13. | Bonnie Hodges-Leech | San Castle Resident          |
| 14. | Deputy Joseph       | PBSO                         |
| 15. | Charbel Khadji      | PBC Fire Rescue              |
| 16. | Francis Kirk        | Optimistic Journey Inc.      |
| 17. | Deputy Leggett      | PBSO                         |
| 18. | Hazel Lucas         | Florida Rural Legal Services |
| 19. | Chrystal Mathews    | PBC OCR                      |
| 20. | Jean Matthews       | PBC Parks & Recreation       |
| 21. | Bill McDonald       | Plantation Area Resident     |
| 22. | Ruth Moguillansky   | PBC OCR                      |
| 23. | Michael Owens       | School District of PBC       |
| 24. | David Rafaidus      | PBC Community Services       |
| 25. | Audley Reid         | PBC OCR                      |
| 26. | Syheita Rhoden      | Sunterra Resident            |
| 27. | Deputy Roode        | PBSO                         |
| 28. | Deputy Russell      | PBSO                         |
| 29. | George Schott       | PBC OCR                      |
| 30. | Houston Tate        | PBC OCR                      |
| 31. | Candy Vivenzio      | Optimistic Journey Inc.      |
| 32. | William Wynn        | PBC OCR                      |

**Meeting Minutes**

- I. Welcome and Introductions:** Houston L. Tate, OCR Director, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and asked the Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) members and attendees to introduce themselves.

## II. Presentation: Erica Whitfield, Board Member, School District of Palm Beach County

Mrs. Whitfield presented on the school district projects from the sales tax referendums, the school districts strategic plan and the school districts priorities. Mrs. Whitfield also shared letters from the principals of two CCRT area schools (Limestone Creek Elementary and Wynnebrook Elementary).

### 1. Sales Tax / Property Tax Referendums

- Property Tax = \$200M/yr./4yrs
- Sales Tax = \$2B / Asked for \$1B / Approved
- Money used for HVAC / Security (1 point of entry) / Teacher “raises” (supplements \$1k-\$10k/yr./based on how long you’ve worked there)
  - When Stoneman Douglass happened, 53 schools had multiple points of entry. All fixed over spring break.
  - 100+ police hired
  - Charter schools not scheduled to get money for police, but got anyway per state mandate following Stoneman Douglass (\$5M cost)
  - Hired 170 behavior health and 40 psychologist for schools – This takes away from the community as a result – Frees up counselors and principals to do their jobs
- Broader role of schools in community
- Trauma affects students – recognize what’s happened – not what’s wrong
- Positive behavior support – Catch them doing something right

### 2. Strategic Plan

- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading scores
  - We want 100% - Not realistic – Set goal to 75%
  - Have about 54% - Exceeding the state – but not meeting our goal
  - Black males improved from 28 to 37%
  - The plan to improve this is equality
  - Asked 16-18 year old B/M if they can read and they said yes, but were unable to read a full sentence or comprehend, just sound out
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade readiness – 59%
- High School graduation rates – 92%
  - Aggregating data – breaking down by race/gender/disability/ESL
    - Lowest graduating rates are Hispanic males – 74% and black males 85.8%
    - White females are the highest, because most teachers are white females, better relation – Need to hire more diverse teachers
- Fostering post graduate success
  - Partnership with FAU / PBSC
  - Go on to trade/vocational/college
  - Hard to track

### 3. Priorities

- VPK – Not many in Lake Worth, the ones that exist are could be better
- In poverty/minority – no preschool, just day care, only 12-15% can pass flickers test to determine if Kindergarten ready (sit still, raise hand, open a book, identify a couple letters or numbers)
- Example Guatemalan student who spent 1 month here, left and came back as a 4<sup>th</sup> grader not knowing anything, because of language differences, and it counts towards the school.
- Hunger / Homelessness
  - 62% PBC on free/reduced lunch. Some schools 99-100%
  - Hard to learn/focus if you haven’t eaten
  - Identified as anything in insecure housing (survey sent out each year)

- Slate wiped clean each year, number of homeless goes up as you identify them
- Benefits of those who identify as homeless

#### 4. Letters from the principals

- Go to the teacher first, if not go to the principals, then the superintendent (Chain of command)
- Per Erica, can jump directly to her with issues
- Letters from Wynnebrook and Limestone Creek
- No F schools in PBC for the first time in 20 years – Glade view cheering for a “C”. Worth celebrating.
- Focus on reading – Can volunteer to read for the school as long as you stay with an employee on property. Science is down this year, because it requires engagement
- Limestone Creek has a marine science program and a STEM lab

### III. Department Updates:

#### Joanna Aiken, SWA

- Ms. Aiken reported there will be an International Coastal cleanup will be on September 21

#### David Rafaidus, PBC Community Services

- Mr. Rafaidus discussed the publication “Securing Our Future an Initiative to Increase Economic Mobility and Reduce Poverty in Palm Beach County”  
The report can be found at <http://securingourfuturepbc.org>  
The pdf report can be found at [http://securingourfuturepbc.org/pdf/Economic\\_Mobility\\_Report.pdf](http://securingourfuturepbc.org/pdf/Economic_Mobility_Report.pdf)

#### Michael Owens, School District of PBC

- Mr. Owens report that the modernization of Wynnebrooke and Melaleuca Elementary schools are on the 2020-2024 capital plan.

#### Chrystal Mathews, PBC OCR

- Mrs. Mathews advised that the NEAT grants will be going before the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on October 22

#### Audley Reid, PBC OCR

- Mr. Reid reported that the petitions for the Seminole Manor speed hump project has been completed.
- The speed hump projects for San Castle, Pahokee and the Plantation Area has been approved by the BCC. As of now there is no projected start date for the projects construction.

#### George Schott, PBC OCR

- Mr. Schott reported that he will be working on the ACI database for the ACI communities beginning with the San Castle community.

#### Charbel Khadij, PBC Fire Rescue (FR)

- Mr. Khadij reported that FR Community Education Division educates the public on fire and injury prevention throughout the county
- On August 24<sup>th</sup> FR installed smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in the Jamaica Bay Mobile Home Park located in Boynton Beach.
- On September 28 FR will be installing smoke and carbon dioxide alarms in Canal Point and Pahokee
- FR will celebrate their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 5<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the FR headquarters located at 405 Pike Road, in West Palm Beach.

**Jean Matthews, PBC Parks & Recreation (P&R)**

- Ms. Matthews reported that the sales tax playgrounds are in progress.

**Adam Davis, PBC Library System Services**

- Mr. Davis reported with the BCC approval as of October 1 there will no longer be late fees by the Library system, current late fees until June 2019 still apply but may eventually be forgiven
- There will still be due dates and there will be fines for non-returned books.

**Vivian Brooks, PBC OCR**

- Mrs. Brooks reported that ACI is making great progress within the Cabana Colony and San Castle CCRT areas.

**IV. Questions/Comments:**

- Bonnie Hodges-Leech, San Castle resident inquired about anger management classes for students / parents – graduation requirement? Debate between Bonnie Hodges-Leech and Violet Howard
- Sgt. Hightower, PBSO inquired about the truancy of students that leave school campuses during school hours
- Sgt. Hightower inquired why haven't the school district updated and installed cameras in a large percentage of the schools. Mrs. Whitfield responded the school district has the funding, but have to follow process to get them installed.
- Sgt Hightower stated that some middle/high school students leave school to do burglaries then return to school. Mrs. Whitfield stated that the students aren't allowed to leave campus. This is not senior privilege.
- Keith Clinkscale, PBC Strategic Planning and Performance Management commented about 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading scores for black males
- Syheita Rhoden, Sunterra resident raised her concerns about the difficulty in parking and parent pickup at Wynnebrook Elementary. Mr. Owens responded that the modernization of Wynnebrooke is on the 2020-2024 capital plan.
- George Schott inquired about how to get your kid tested and placed into the gifted program Mrs. Whitfield responded kids are tested as early as Kindergarten. If earlier, parents need to pay the \$350 testing fee. The parents must send teacher and principal an email requesting the ESE test. It's not an emergency test, but does have a deadline, so send ASAP.
- Violet Howard, Optimistic Journey, Inc. – Working on new program to teach ex-prisoners trades so they can earn \$25-\$35/hr. She feels that companies need to allow convicted felons the opportunity to work with better pay.

The meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

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