



# CITY OF ORLANDO

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## *Mayor's Parramore Task Force Public Safety/Public Works Subcommittee Meeting*

**Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 29, 2004, 6:00 p.m.**

The meeting of the Mayor's Parramore Task Force Public Safety/Public Works Subcommittee was held on Thursday, January 29, 2004, at 6:05 p.m. at the Dr. J. B. Callahan Neighborhood Center, Chairman Greg Clendenin presiding.

**Members Present:** Greg Clendenin, Chair  
Lonnie Thompson

**Members Absent:** Bob Carmichael  
Brian Butler  
Ed Carson  
Juan Lynum  
Hudie Stone  
Maudie Walker

**Staff Present** Capt. Sonja White  
Lt. Robert Pigman  
Sgt. Christ LaBoo  
Steve Leonard  
Eugene Crouch

The meeting began with a lengthy statement by Sub-Committee Chairman Greg Clendenin. Chairman Clendenin referred to several dated studies of the Parramore area and all indicated that crime was the overall leading concern for the neighborhood. He has attended meetings since 1997-98 and taken day and evening tours of the area, spoken with some of the residents and reviewed a number of documents and tables of stats. Mr. Clendenin reviewed the Weed and Seed program written in 1989 and the program indicated that drugs and crime have plagued the neighborhood. A survey was conducted and 28 things were noted as the top priorities:

- Drugs and Drug Users
- Drug Dealers
- Crime
- People Leaving Trash in Street
- Homelessness

Chairman Clendenin cited specific actions that he believed necessary for the Orlando Police Department to positively impact the crime problem including: drug and prostitution stings, reverse drug stings, drug surveillance, zero tolerance for all crimes, anonymous tip telephone lines, training for officers and dispatchers to better coordinate and act upon anonymous input from citizens.

It was clearly stated by Greg Clendenin that he is very appreciative of the efforts made by the men and women of the Orlando Police Department (OPD). Many of the people in attendance echoed the praise of OPD including Phil Cowherd.

Lt. Pigman responded to Mr. Clendenin's aforementioned statements with the following information:

- Progress has been made at the Arlington /Concord Neighborhood Association meeting that several OPD members attended. Steve Leonard, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, convinced the residents to form a Neighborhood Watch Program.
- Currently responding to citizens' complaints regarding a pay telephone at the Arena Food Store (Westmoreland Avenue and Arlington Street) by asking the owner to limit its use to outgoing calls only.
- The enforcement efforts of the Parramore Heritage Bike Unit over the past two weeks involved continuous aggressive drug and homeless enforcement in the Parramore area.
- Strict enforcement often leads to higher crime statistics and the Orlando Police Department would continue strict enforcement in the future.
- There are anonymous systems in place and both police officers and dispatchers have been trained to use. These systems include both the drug and prostitution hotlines as well as Crime Line. It was explained that citizens may request to remain anonymous on routine complaint calls via 911 as the police officers are directed by dispatchers that the complainant is confidential.
- In terms of coordinated efforts with the Code Enforcement Division, our police officers have a positive track record and routinely refer code enforcement violations. In turn, Mike Rhodes, Permitting and Code Enforcement Division Manager, routinely advises the OPD of law enforcement related concerns.
- Lt. Pigman shared the concept recently presented to the Weed and Seed Steering Committee of aggressively enforcing trespassing laws. This cooperative effort between the Safe Neighborhood Council, Weed and Seed, the OBT Development Board and the Orange County Sheriff's Office has produced favorable results.
- It is evident that the Parramore area has a crime problem that is exacerbated by the large homeless population. In fact, homelessness plays a significant role in the Parramore crime problem as both victim and perpetrator.

**Mr. Lonnie Thompson** - made comments in reference to all reports. Stated he agreed with about 85% of the comments made at the meeting. City has an action plan for vacant properties.

**Mr. Eugene Crouch** – Orlando Fire Department - commented that the Parramore community is being beat up on. What are citizens and homeowners doing?

**Mr. Timothy Adams** – referenced Code Enforcement and everyone that is concerned. He also stated that people who have attended meetings have the power to make a positive difference but they don't.

**Bridget J. Monroe** - is a Parramore resident and president of a homeowners group in Parramore. She would like Mayor Dyer to come and live in Parramore for 30 days, so he will have a good understanding of what goes on in Parramore. People who don't live in Parramore should not be allowed to make the final decision as to what goes on and what is put in place.

All in attendance at the meeting agreed to the following recommendations:

- Funds allocated for Parramore were spent in other areas.
- Parramore area is not afforded the same quality of services as compared to the College Park neighborhood.
- After recommendations are put in place, have quarterly meetings to review and see if recommendations being implemented.
- Revisit the homelessness and social services policy in the Parramore community.

**Mr. Phil Cowherd** - commented on the following points:

- He was instrumental in the city institution of the Trespassing Ordinance (Lonnie Thompson asked for the memo). Police Officers can serve a warrant even if the person isn't on the property. Would like City Commissioners to attend meetings to show their support.
- Only one Code Enforcement Inspector is assigned to the Parramore community.
- Would like the OPD supported in every aspect to enforce the laws in the Parramore community.
- Code Enforcement is an incredible important issue and hopes that the leaders have the guts and political courage to do it.

**Shawn Fuchs** – Would like to know the process after recommendations have been reported.

Mr. Clendenin stated that reports would be reviewed for accountability. Discussion ensued.

The next meeting of the Mayor's Parramore Task Force Public Safety/Public Works Subcommittee will be held on Wednesday, February 4, 2004, 10:00 a.m., Orlando City Hall, 9<sup>th</sup> floor, Harvard Room.

The next meeting of the Mayor's Parramore Task Force will be held on Wednesday, February 4, 2004, 8:30 a.m., Orlando City Hall, 9<sup>th</sup> floor, Harvard Room.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Clendenin concluded the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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Greg Clendenin, Chairman

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Meroy Charles, Recording