



## **THAN Public Safety Committee Minutes**

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

6:40pm - 7:30pm

Hanna City Center  
2555 E. Hanna Ave, Tampa, FL 33610

### **Neighborhood Representation:**

THAN Board

Ybor Heights

Historic Ybor

V.M. Ybor

New East Tampa

Fair Oaks

Southeast Seminole Heights

### **1. Meeting Called to Order - 6:35pm**

### **2. Guest Speakers - Code Enforcement (Dept. 813-274-5545) Carlos Rios and Ryan Shepherd (Ryan 813-255-4037)**

#### **○ Organization, Policy, and Procedures**

- i. 33 inspectors work Monday through Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
Occasionally work on the weekends.
- ii. Code enforcement operates under Chapter 19, Chapter 20.5 and Chapter 27 of the code.
- iii. Inspectors use an inspection sheet to assess the whole property for violations, not just the original violation reported to them.
- iv. An inspector is not allowed to look over someone's private property fence. However, if invited an inspector can stand in the property next door on a higher level, such as a deck, to look over the fence to visually inspect for violations.

- v. It is important to know when someone reports a code violation online they must submit their name and address and phone number. People who wish to remain anonymous can use another person's name to report for them a code violation. It is common for neighborhood associations board members to report for residents.
- vi. Remember people who are in violation can look up to see who is reporting them because it is public record.
- vii. There are two types of code offenders: chronic and repeat.
- **Enforcement and Violations**
  - i. Some common examples of what code enforcement violations they address: minimum standards of construction, overgrown grass and plants, abandoned vehicles, and removing trees without a city permit.
  - ii. For abandoned cars if there is a good tag and good tires on the car it is not a violation. If a violation is found on a car the owner has 21 days to bring the car up to code.
  - iii. Using the civil citation process is the quickest turnaround time to enforce code violations.
  - iv. A person could be issued an instant \$75 citation, if they do not pay the first \$75 it escalates to \$100. If this is not paid they can be brought to court, and they can be placed on probation if they are found guilty.
- **Questions from the audience:**
  - i. Is code enforcement or the housing authority responsible for addressing mold in a home?
    - 1. In the state of Florida there are no state regulations regarding mold.
  - ii. Is code enforcement responsible for issuing citations related to noise?
    - 1. No, it is the police's responsibility to enforce the city noise ordinance.

- iii. Can businesses have portable restrooms on the sidewalk outside their business?
  - 1. Typically no, unless they have an event permit.
- iv. Who is responsible for paying when trees are illegally removed?
  - 1. Homeowners who cut down trees without a permit are responsible for paying the city fine. The tree cutting company is not fined.
- v. Outside seating and cueing for clubs in Ybor?
  - 1. In Ybor City sidewalk permits are required for roped off areas to form a line to enter an establishment, have a podium outside, and have seating outside.
- vi. AirBnB's used as party houses?
  - 1. Ryan and Carlos reported investigating an Airbnb being used as a club. They are still investigating the group who organizes club events at local Airbnb's.
- vii. Is plywood required for windows?
  - 1. Yes. The inspector has the ability to use a city contractor to secure

### **3. Review of Committee Procedures with Regards to Selection of City Council Agenda Items**

- Skipping consent agenda items.
- Will attempt to give review of interval TCC developments as these relate to public safety. Will attempt to track upcoming items that are scheduled before the following public safety meeting.
- Will attempt to send agenda between the most recent TCC/CRA Board meeting and the scheduled PSC meeting date.

### **4. City Council - Interval Public Safety Items**

- Fire Station 24
- Safety and Security of Parking Lots in Ybor City
- TCC Code Enforcement presentation

## **5. Old Business**

- Public Safety Committee Secretary Position, Members
  - i. Mimi Martinez now Secretary
- TPD and Community Engagement and Partnerships Safety Training
  - i. On pause until the community liaison position is filled. Status uncertain.
- TPD/Neighborhood Watch Information Update
  - i. Updated Community Liaison information on neighborhood watch website.
  - ii. Homeless Affairs Liaison, Jasmine House, may change roles. Shift bud opening up. Able to submit concerns on [tampaconnect.com](http://tampaconnect.com)
  - iii. District III Community Liaison vacant - Corporal Gig Brown ([gig.brown@tampagov.net](mailto:gig.brown@tampagov.net)) and TPD Community Partnership Coordinator Jamel Michini ([jamel.michini@tampagov.net](mailto:jamel.michini@tampagov.net)) are covering duties. New position filled?

## **6. New Business**

- Updates to code enforcement to reduce blighted appearance of vacant structures.
- DIY traffic calming PSA for NAs from Mobility Department - No updates
- Collaboration with Community Engagement and Partnerships
  - i. Slides from initial meeting shared with Vanessa Nettingham
  - ii. Make part of Mayor's Neighborhood University?

## **7. Adjournment 7:30pm**