

District 4 Meeting Recap
Held February 26, 2010

Commissioner Bill Ganz

Sally Siegel, Finance Director, and Andy Maurodis, City Attorney, presented information regarding the water rates charged in the City. **Charlie DaBruso, Director PWES**, was available for questions. They discussed the opinion of 1982 lawsuit filed by Century Village which governs the different rate that CV is charged. All residents pay the same amount for water but the difference is in the base rate charged. Single family homes pay the most, multifamily pays less and Century Village has a very low base rate. A statement was made that about 5 years ago the terms of this agreement changed when the City started to maintain the major trunk lines but the rate schedule has not been changed. A new outside company has been hired to evaluate all water charges for the City and will prepare a report for the Commission.

Residents were concerned that the water plant increases the flow volume causing residents to be charged for more usage. Charlie explained that the flow volume can be altered in an emergency situation such as a major fire but this is not routinely done.

Chief Jay Fernandez, Broward Sheriff's Office, discussed the 11.5% reduction in the crime rate from 2009 to 2008. He stated that the BSO responded to over 63,000 calls last year which breaks down to about 175 calls per day. The BSO staff did not increase in 2009. A Tactical Deployment Team was established that resulted in 25,000 arrests in 2009. In comparison to other local cities Deerfield BSO operates with 20% fewer employees and has a 34% lower crime rate. He discussed Cybervisor which is a way for residents to get current information on crime in their neighborhood. Operation Medicine Cabinet will be held on Saturday, March 6th for residents to be able to turnover unwanted prescription medicine for BSO to properly dispose of.

Door to door solicitation or distributions of hand bills are not allowed in Deerfield. Residents need to contact BSO when either of these things are happening.

A few residents stated their concern about the response they get when calling BSO with a problem or how an Officer handles a situation. Chief Fernandez said residents can contact him directly with their issues – phone 954-480-4303 or e-mail: jay_fernandez@sheriff.org

Chief Chad Brocato, Fire Rescue, talked about new programs being launched in the City. Station 111, a portable trailer has been moved to the old public works property on Goolsby. This station will cover West Deerfield and not only Century Village as was stated in the local paper. Currently Deerfield is has an ISO rating of 3. This rating is used by insurance companies to set a portion of the insurance rates charged. Chief Brocato stated the Fire Department is in the process of improving areas such as training and hydrant maintenance to try to upgrade the rating to a 2.

He also discussed the CERT program in that 900 residents have been certified to respond and help in emergency situations. This training helps both the individual resident as well as assisting professionals. Commissioner Ganz acknowledged Al and Helen Santana in the audience for their work with the COPS and CERT programs in the City.

Sergeant Joe Joyce, Code Enforcement, discussed the new procedures for Code Enforcement which now uses a Magistrate to hear compliance issues. A new code also allows Code Enforcement to go in and rectify problems that have not been cured under the new program. Code enforcement has been complaint driven meaning BSO responds to issues from calls and residents are asked to continue to report problems they witness for action. Commissioner Ganz is encouraging Code Enforcement to take a pro-active role in District 4.

Kevin Klopp, Economic Development Manager, talked about the stimulus money coming to the City for the Dixie Flyover and how he is trying to access additional stimulus funds for other projects such as empty warehouse facilities in the City. He explained that the CRA funds are for eastern section of the City and there are no funds to bring the same type of improvements west on Hillsboro. CRA funds are also available for new buildings at the pier and Cove Shopping Center. A1A s-curve is also being studied for improvement.

Concerned residents asked about a new facility that will be built near Independence Bay and Waterways on County owned land. Commissioner Ganz confirmed that he was not aware until recently about this construction and promised a meeting will be held to inform residents of these developments.

Amanda Martinez, Planner, stated the 2010 Census will be mailed out on March 15th. Census workers will knock at doors of non-responding residents up to 6 times to get the required information. Commissioner Ganz stated how important it is to the City that all residents are counted in the Census. Amanda stated the information on the documents is kept confidential for 72 years.

Bob Harbin, Director of Parks and Recreation, discussed the 5 acre plot that was given to the City by Quite Waters Park. This area will be developed for athletic facilities. There will be meetings held to get comments from the citizens and the City needs to find funding for the project. Bob pointed out that the area will not have to include any parking space. There is discussion that the old Tamashanter Golf course may be donated to the City for green space. Depending on the use there may have to be a zoning change.

Commissioner Ganz took questions from the audience.