



Amendment to the
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT PLAN
FOR THE
NORTHWEST-PROGRESSO FLAGLER HEIGHTS COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA
June, 2013

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I. INTRODUCTION

The general provisions outlined in 1995 and restated and amended in 2001 versions of the Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Plan remain in effect as amended to include the following introductory statements:

This is an amendment to the Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Plan (hereinafter the "Amendment to the Plan") to include specific projects (hereinafter "Projects") to further referenced as Community Policing Innovations, Wireless Surveillance Camera system and the development of a Wireless Internet Access Point also known as public Wi-Fi.

The Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Plan is being amended to support existing revitalization efforts in the redevelopment area. In 1995, the City of Fort Lauderdale declared portions of northwest Fort Lauderdale, Flagler Heights, and Old Progresso Village a Redevelopment Area pursuant to the Community Redevelopment Act of 1969, Chapter 163, Part III, Florida Statutes.

In 1995, the area designated for redevelopment is one of three of Fort Lauderdale's areas that have met the statutory definition of slum and blight. With the adoption of the 1995 Community Redevelopment Plan, redevelopment activities and the utilization of a redevelopment trust fund became possible. The mixed-use development projects in Flagler Village, the in-fill housing development in Dorsey Riverbend and River Gardens, the development of the Save-A-Lot shopping center, as well as, the construction of the NE 6th Street/Sistrunk Boulevard streetscape project have all had positive impacts on the redevelopment area. As a result, many of the slum and blight conditions that were identified in the Plan have either been arrested or reduced, and been replaced with new, private capital investment into the Area which has improved the tax base. With the revitalization of the Redevelopment Area well under way, it is now time to address issues that have a far reaching impact on our inability to remove blight completely. The issues of concern include creating a safer neighborhood and encouraging additional private capital investments by enhancing our security and increasing our digital access platforms in key commercial development areas. Strategic investments into community policing, wireless surveillance cameras and public Wi-Fi will be modern day enhancements to the redevelopment plan envisioned by community planners back in 1995.

The Plan amendment has been prepared for the Fort Lauderdale Redevelopment Agency pursuant to the Community Redevelopment Act of 1969, Chapter 163, Part III, Florida Statutes, as amended. The Plan has been found to be in conformity with the City of Fort Lauderdale Comprehensive Plan, and has been approved by the Agency and the City. All plan elements as encompassed in the Community Redevelopment Plan, as adopted by City Council on (insert date), remain in full force and effect, and apply to and provide for appropriate procedural redevelopment actions and activities in the Redevelopment Area.

II. PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

a. Community Policing Innovations

As defined in 163.340 (23) of the Florida Statutes, “Community policing innovation” means a policing technique or strategy designed to reduce crime by reducing opportunities for, and increasing the perceived risks of engaging in, criminal activity through visible presence of police in the community, including, but not limited to, community mobilization, neighborhood block watch, citizen patrol, citizen contact patrol, foot patrol, neighborhood storefront police stations, field interrogation, or intensified motorized patrol.

The U.S. Department of Justice further describes community policing as a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies, which support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.

b. Wireless Surveillance Camera System

Several major cities have installed public surveillance camera technology with mostly good results, but also many lessons have been learned regarding proper deployment strategy. For example, a September 2011 public policy brief published by the Urban Institute’s Justice Policy Center studied the public surveillance systems of three American cities – Baltimore, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. In general, the policy brief report categorized the public surveillance systems as successful; the report also offered advice for cities to consider when installing this type of technology. In summary, cities considering public surveillance technology should consider the following issues:

- How to Balance Utility with Privacy
- Involve the community at the outset
- Don’t underestimate costs
- Anticipate technology upgrades
- Start small
- Consider location
- Invest in live monitoring
- Prioritize training

Some of the capabilities of a wireless surveillance camera system is that all cameras can be remotely controlled by users of the system; video recording can be initiated to assist with investigations; video analytics, such as facial recognition and motion, are available; license plate reader technology; and a secure Wi-Fi high-speed data network can be created that would also be a general benefit to area businesses and residents.

c. Public Wireless Internet Access Point or Public Wi-Fi

Wireless internet access point infrastructure, otherwise known as public Wi-Fi, is being proposed to provide a unique business development resource and bridge the digital divide

for one of the most economically depressed areas within the City of Fort Lauderdale. It is anticipated that the Public Wi-Fi System will have the ability to help promote city initiatives, similar to Channel 78, but may also provide a competitive advantage for business recruitment and retention.

It is suggested that by creating a wireless broadband network, commonly known as Wi-Fi, more residents will be able to gain online access, bridging what is commonly known as the digital divide. In this sense, building a Wi-Fi network in the NPF CRA district should be viewed as city infrastructure, like telephone poles or city streets. Cities ranging from Nantucket, Mass., to San Francisco, Calif., either have wireless broadband access or are considering installing similar systems. In summary, wireless broadband access can create "positive externalities" for cities, just like urban planning techniques that generate higher foot traffic in neighborhoods, and business development programs that are focused on developing a better business climate and enhanced overall image.

For example, if a single coffee shop decides to supply customers with wireless broadband access for free, then it makes people more likely to go to the coffee shop. So one reason cities may want to make wireless broadband available is that it improves the attractiveness of areas they are trying to redevelop by using techniques that no individual business can.

REDEVELOPMENT AREA

