

**CITY OF RIVIERA BEACH  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2012 AT 5:30 P.M.**

(The following may contain inaudible or misunderstood words due to the recording quality.)

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. I see we're on TV. All right, Madam Clerk.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Mayor Thomas Masters? Chairperson Billie Brooks?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Here.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Chair Pro-tem Dawn Pardo?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Present.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Judy Davis?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Here.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Cedrick Thomas?

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Here.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Shelby Lowe?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Here.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** City Manager Ruth Jones?

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Present.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** City Clerk Carrie Ward is present.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** City Attorney Pamala Ryan?

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Here.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** You have a quorum, Madam Chair, and you -- you may proceed.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Thank you so much, Madam Clerk. We will all now stand for a moment of silence, um, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. And I always ask when we have our moment of silence, please just, in your own way, say a word of prayer for us, please, the City and our council meeting. And we will have Mr. Thomas. (Everyone stood for a moment of silence with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by Councilperson Thomas).

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Do we have any additions, deletions, substitutions? Miss Jones?

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Yes, Madam Chair. Under Community Benefits, um, we have five, um, additions. The first one is Revival Community Outreach Ministries for \$1,000. Suggest -- from Chair Brooks. The Youth Recreation Association for \$1,200 from Councilperson Davis. The City of Riviera Beach in the amount of \$701.32 for a program that is being hosted by Councilperson Davis. Housing Partnership, Incorporated, \$500 for Councilperson Lowe. And the City of Riviera Beach, um, the Mayor would like to contribute to Councilman Thomas's Fifth Grade Fun Day. And

those are the additions.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** All right. And no deletions or substitutions?

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Correct.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Any disclosure by council on any item on the agenda? If there be none, then I need a motion to adopt the agenda.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** So moved.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Roll call?

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Thomas?

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Lowe?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Davis?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Pro-Tem Pardo?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Chair Brooks?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Um --

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Chair Brooks?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Thank you, ma'am. Unanimous vote.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Now the consent agenda. We do need a motion to approve the consent agenda. If there's an item that anyone would like to pull, um, we'll do so at this time.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Madam Chair, move consent.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Roll call.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Lowe?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Davis?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Thomas?

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Pro-Tem Pardo?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Chair Brooks?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Unanimous vote.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Petitions and Communications for Filing.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** We have none.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Awards and Presentation.

**INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES:** Danny Jones, Interim Deputy City Manager. We had a little technical difficulty with the PowerPoint machine so, uh, we're trying to get a new laptop in. The -- the --

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** It's right behind you.

**INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES:** -- oh, okay. They're coming.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** It's right behind you.

**INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES:** All right.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. And the presentation is by the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority regarding a proposal for a new Tri-Rail layover and maintenance facility.

**JOE QUINTY:** And I'll introduce that item. Uh, good morning, Madam Chair and council members. My name is Joe Quilty. I'm on -- I'm the Transportation Planning Manager for the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority. We're best known as the operator of Tri-Rail regional commuter rail service.

And I'm joined, uh, by Lynda Mifsud who is our, uh, project manager for this. She's one of our -- with Jacobs Engineering, one of our planning consultants. And I really want to bring greetings on behalf of Joe Giulietti, our executive director and our governing board -- current chair of our governing board is Steve Abrams, Palm Beach County Commissioner.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**JOE QUINTY:** And really just to introduce this briefly to tell you that it's been a long-standing need for the Tri-Rail system and -- and being able to expand our service and provide a more efficient service but also engage more communities for future expansion. And that's something that we feel that this project -- you know, we're trying to proceed delicately. We've got three different towns, a lot of coordination involved. And this is the beginning of our formal dialogue with -- with this council.

And we think it'll be the start of a lot more of that. But we see this as both, you know, enhancing our existing service, but also most importantly, allowing for expansion with us going north on to the FEC with hopefully the City of Riviera Beach as a partner of ours with a station on that line. So welcome any questions when we're done but Lynda Mifsud, our project manager, will walk you through it.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Welcome.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Good evening.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Good evening.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Thank you so much for having us. I'd like to begin with some history of the origin of the layover facility. The idea and the need for it began in 1994 as Tri-Rail began to grow in success. It was tied to the double-track study that was done at that time and the planning for the extension to the Mangonia Park and the V.A. Hospital all led to the need for extending the layover further north with the stations.

In 1996 the Mangonia Park station did open. And in doing that it moved the end of the line four miles north of the current layover facility next to the West Palm Beach station. In 2002, an additional study was done and at that time a heavy maintenance facility was sought with functions on private property.

And it was part of the Segment 5 Project. In 2010 we took a fresh look at it. 2002 didn't go. 2010 we took a fresh look at it and we began with, What are you going to need to use this facility for? Because we began to question the need for all of those functions at this northern facility. So what we came up with at that time is the need for a layover and light maintenance facility where you do inspections.

FRA requires 24-hour inspections on the equipment. And a place for the train sets to spend the night. Because when you go to the end of your route, you don't want them all going back and forth to and from Miami, the heavy maintenance facility.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** So is that what you mean by layover?

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** It -- it's where you put the train at the end of the day and then you pick it back up again and take it back south for the regular routes that it conducts.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** So that's the layover function. Tri-Rail is growing. It now has 51 vehicles. They're looking to go to 82. So they have more equipment. In the next three years those are going to be delivered and they are the new tier 3 vehicles that are meeting a much higher standard for air quality emissions and they're much quieter. So the equipment is improving. It's being replaced and expanded with newer state-of-the-art, high-standard equipment. Um, and people want to ride it.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** So the ridership is on the way up. It was over 8 percent up last year. That year-over-year trend is growing. And there is a strong desire to extend the service and where it goes, um, as far up as Jupiter. And also, uh, Joe Quilty had mentioned also combining on the FEC. So you're taking some of the service on the CSX and moving it over to the FEC and having an integrated system that goes to more places. And I know we're all excited about this new service.

The need for the project. I'm showing you the existing facility at West Palm. It's too small. It's less than an acre. It can't handle longer train sets. And when your ridership increases, you want to add more trains. You don't want to add more, um, frequencies. You just make a longer train and you can accommodate your increased demand.

It can't handle more train sets, either. If you wanted to add more -- more than 40 minutes, if you wanted to go every 20 minutes, you couldn't do that, either. And so the

four miles distance from the end of the line is also creating some inefficiencies, some cost-ineffectiveness with the additional miles needed to travel for non-revenue service.

In 2010 we did the location study, and we looked at where could we put this along the CSXT and if -- can we find some publicly available property. Let's not try to take private property for it. Let's see what's available. And so we moved that, uh, study looking at different locations along the CSXT corridor.

And what we came up with was one location in, uh, Mangonia Park, Riviera Beach and West Palm. It's in all three. It's called Mission Spur. It's about a half a mile north of Mangonia Park Station. It's compatible with existing land use. It's in a generally isolated industrial and buffered location by trees.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh, yes. Excuse me.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** The proposed --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Excuse me, Miss Lynda. He has a question.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Excuse me.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Yes. Oh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Just so we don't get all the way to the end and -- and we -- we're not -- can you go back one slide?

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Sure.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Is there a way that you can make that a little clearer so I can see exactly where you're saying for the Riviera Beach?

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh. Yes. I have a site plan map that will zoom in on it.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Okay.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** What we did here is you see that little triangle down at the bottom? And you'll see it because I have a better image of it. That little triangle at the very bottom of the light.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Do you have a laser, uh, something that she could use?

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** I sure do. Actually, here we go. If you see that little triangle --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** -- down at the bottom --

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Uh-huh.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** -- that -- all of this property here is DOT property or it is Palm -- Palm Beach has a sliver that we would need for access. And I'll show you this in more detail. We were looking at parcels and we dismissed most of those parcels because they weren't working.

What we came up with is the need to try and find a wide spot in the tracks. Because what you're doing is you're laying over trains so it needs to be long and straight. It does not need to be square or rectangle or curved. It needs to be right along the track. So we looked for those locations and what we found was kind of a combination of those.

Um, and as you'll see, we looked at parcels that were available. And then we came up with this idea. Let's just put it along the tracks. And we found a little triangle area where we could -- you see it a little bit better here -- where we could put a building for the crew and, uh, administration offices.

Now, at the proposed facility -- and I have some other graphics that showed this a little more clearly -- um, at this facility we're looking for, as I mentioned, the train storage overnight, the inspection and service tracks. It's where you -- you need to do your 24-hour FRA-required inspections for safety purposes, mechanical purposes.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** And FRA means?

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** The Federal Railroad Administration.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Okay.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** They've really gotten strong on safety in these last few years, and that is increasing to -- increasingly becoming a bigger focus for the federal overseers. We're looking for a small office. We've identified the need for a 7,000-square-foot, one-story office space for the crew, for the maintenance staff, and for some storage of materials and equipment.

The trains themselves would hook up to a clean electric power at night. They would not be running so you would do your inspections and you would plug them in, turn them off for the night. And then you'd start them back up the end of the day. Fuels, we'll be looking at on-site fueling for these train sets. We've identified the need for a car wash. SFRTA is all about customer service and they want their trains to be clean. And so we've identified a way to place a car wash in this facility that's blowerless, that's brushless and we'll use recycled, reclaimed water.

And the whole facility, the -- the building, we're looking at lead certification. So we -- we have a lot of ideas as to how this can fit well in the environment, as well as the neighborhoods. And we have identified the need for a noise barrier for the communities to the south and Mangonia Park and Riviera Beach.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** What type of noise barriers?

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** I'll show you in just a minute. I've got a graph that shows that from the trains, uh, that are approaching from the Mangonia Park Station.

This is a site layout. Let me just walk through where things would be placed. These two orange locations are two service and inspection tracks. This area here is where the building would fit. The driveway from Dexter Way would come along a strip of Port of Palm Beach property to enter the site for vehicles. The trains would approach from Mangonia Park Station to the south into the facility at this junction. They would be serviced at this location. And then taken to the north, plugged in, parked. At the end of the day they would come out.

This is a car wash facility that would be used periodically. Right now they wash the trains --

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** It's a train wash facility.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** It is a --

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Train wash.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** -- it is for trains, yes.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Train cars, not -- not regular cars.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** They -- they call the train cars. Yes.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Okay. All right.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Yes. It's not for automobiles. No.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Right. Okay. So -- just so we --

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** In fact, I don't think it would do a very good job for the automobiles. But it is for the trains. Thank you for that clarification.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Okay.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** And then on the southern end, uh, we're looking for some potential idling of about 45 minutes for a train set while it's being serviced here. The idling is a potential for noise to these residential so we've identified the noise barrier because of the proximity.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Miss Pardo?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Okay. So what time -- what time of day would the idling occur?

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh. The idling would occur as they come in in the evening. So it would occur from, um, 4:30 to 11:00 in the evening.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Okay. And then what time would the trains leave in the morning?

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** The first train out is about 3:30 in the morning.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** 3:30.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** And then about every 40 minutes another train would occur. Now, on leaving they're not idling.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Right.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** On leaving they're gearing up, they're turning on and they are exiting the facility.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Thank you.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Miss Davis?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Um, this came before the MPO.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Yes.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Um, it was discussed at the MPO a few months ago. And how many of these meetings have you had with the other cities involved?

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Very good question. I have a slide that discusses the public

meetings that we've had. We have begun those since last year. We began our first meeting with the City of Riviera Beach in December of 2011. And we have met --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** And who -- who -- who -- you met with, um, I believe, one of our engineers?

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** We met with Planning & Zoning, Mary McKinney, Jeff -- actually, it was right after a DRI so we had very good attendance.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Um, Terrence Bailey was -- was there. Yeah, we had very good attendance. We had met separately with, uh, Brynt Johnson and Terrence Bailey on some of the drainage issues associated with RC2.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** And we have continued to meet with, uh, Mary McKinney and her staff. We've had a couple of meetings with them. But we have also formed --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Ma'am, okay.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** -- an intergovernmental committee.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Hold on just a minute, please.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Just one minute there. She has a question.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Yes. Sorry.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay. So, um, have you met with any other municipal city councils?

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** We -- we met with the Town of Mangonia Park last night.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Last night.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Now, the reason I -- I -- and at the MPO meeting I -- I --

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** -- hadn't -- I didn't know anything about this.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** And you told me it had been presented to our engineers and others.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** But my question to you then was I know that the West Palm Beach site is very noisy.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** And in looking at the map, I wanted to make sure that, um, where this location is, you know --

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Yes.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** -- the homes that are in Riviera Beach are not gonna be

impacted by the noise.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Right.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** And you said it was light maintenance.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Understanding that the light maintenance part of it doesn't take place in the Riviera Beach boundary area. It takes place in, I believe, Mangonia Park or --

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Yes.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay. Um, but light maintenance, you know, I didn't know where -- where it was gonna take place at that particular --

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** -- time and wanted to know more about what kind of --

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** -- light maintenance you were talking about.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Certainly. Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** You know, um, so the -- what I understand now is just the office is going to be located in Riviera Beach?

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** At this location in the triangle, there is no office in -- in fact, there is nothing in Riviera Beach except for track. If you look at the boundary right here, the office, the service and inspection tracks are all south of the FPL right-of-way.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay. Well, see, when we're -- we're looking at this, I -- it's hard for me to tell what's Riviera Beach, what's Mangonia.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yeah. It was Mangonia, yeah.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** What. You know, so you gotta --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** If you look at this one it's a little bit larger. Okay. Let me draw this out for you. Uh, everything south of this point where I'm pointing my arrow is outside of Riviera Beach. Riviera Beach is to the north.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** And so all of the service and inspection, the building, the train wash and the noise wall for the residential to the south, all of that is either in the City of West Palm where I'm pointing my arrow in that little corner --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** -- or the Town of Mangonia Park. Okay? And we're kind of constrained here because of the electrical lines along the FPL right-of-way in terms of pushing anything north into Riviera Beach. What we have is layover yard for the trains to be plugged in at night. And that's the extent of the activity in Riviera Beach boundaries.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay. Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Miss Davis.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay. So you're -- the only thing that's over there is Cisco, um --

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Right there.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** -- something and sons and --

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** -- some kind of building products plant. There are no homes.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** There's TAMKO Building Products. No.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** There are no residential, uh, homes --

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** That's CEMEX.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** -- in -- in that area?

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Right.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** North of CEMEX is Stonybrooks.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Yes. I -- I understand. Uh, let me go --

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** That's not on the map.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** -- let me go -- and I -- I know that noise is a concern for folks. And what we have here is our noise screening distance. Noise was conducted in accordance with the Federal Transit Administration noise and vibration guidelines. We looked at that very closely and we were very concerned about noise to adjacent communities.

The distances that we used for screening of what properties are within the potential for noise -- and they use these distances based on projects around the country and the experience with those projects. We did not find any residential with the exception of the City of West Palm Beach to the south and the Bryn Mawr neighborhood in Mangonia Park. And that's where we have proposed the noise wall where they're very close. You see, they're within a hundred feet of the track at this point.

Now, one thing to note about the proposed noise barrier is it would be outside of the main line. It would be south and west of the main line. So the freight traffic that currently occurs along this corridor and the Amtrak service that currently occurs would be behind the noise wall for those residents.

Now, we did not identify any potential noise for anything beyond those locations to the south.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Mr. Thomas.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Um, I -- I see your -- your noise boundary.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Yes.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** And it appears that you all have answered most of the

questions that I would have about the noise. What I'm asking is: what is the benefit of you coming to our city to keep your trains there?

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** I mean, that's not something that I'm excited about just looking at.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** In Mangonia Park they're obviously going to get a building which means that you're going to have to pay some type of taxes, some type of revenue is going to come into their city.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** I don't see how having trains just parked in our city for overnight, however short or long they may be, gives us any benefit. What's the benefit to our city for having to look at your trains as clean as they will be, since you have a train wash --

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** I mean, as -- as silent as they will be --

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** -- because you've conducted some type of --

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Yes.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** -- sound barriers to your plan. But what is the benefit?

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Why are you actually, you know, talking to us late but why -- I'm glad you are but why? What is the benefit of that?

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Well, actually -- and I appreciate your concerns -- we're very early.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Okay.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** This is very early in the process. And we have been very proactive in wanting to reach out to the communities and we've engaged the staff and we've engaged -- this is our second public workshop that we'll be having. We had one back in June to introduce the project. Um, the benefit -- SFRTA is a regional transportation provider --

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Uh-huh.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** -- that benefits the region, not individual cities. But the entire region. They're a good employer. They're providing transportation service up to the Mangonia Park Station at the end of the line. So it's providing transportation along that 70-plus mile corridor to the region, including the City of Riviera Beach.

I'll also say that SFRTA is a very good employer of people. This will be a location that will be in the vicinity of Riviera Beach. There will be jobs associated with it, although it is not a real active facility. It's a place where you do some small maintenance jobs. There are mechanics that will go to work there. There will be operators and engineers

that will go to work there. And so it will be a good neighbor to Riviera Beach.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** But you're gonna be parked there.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** And my issue is, it appears that --

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Okay.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** -- however someone would view our city or looking into our city, they're gonna see a train. If they're riding on I-95 -- well, based on your map --

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** (Inaudible) won't. Yeah.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** -- it seem -- it would seem to me --

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** -- that if you're riding on I-95 you'll be able to look at a train.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** If you're riding, I'm assuming, up 710, which is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard --

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** -- you're gonna see a train. But if you go further up, there's an FEC station. Why can't you just take the trains further up and let them sit there overnight?

**JOE QUINTY:** Council Member Thomas, uh, Joe Quinty again, for the record. I -- I'm glad you're asking these questions and I think what you can tell from Lynda's response is we don't want to oversell the benefits directly to Riviera on this.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**JOE QUINTY:** That we're fortunate that the state-owned rail corridor is very wide in this location. And just by happenstance at its widest point and where that funky triangle that came along with the rail corridor purchase hits three different municipalities which makes some pretty intense coordination required to get, you know -- explain to all three what's in it, and particularly for Riviera Beach.

You're unique in why, you know -- understand the sensitivity especially so because right now West Palm Beach and Mangonia get train service and right now Riviera Beach does not. So while we feel that the least intense activities are going to be in your segment of this project, truth be told what this does is it makes it easier to expand going north, which I know has been an interest of this council for a long time and making something happen at 13<sup>th</sup> Street.

And without a facility here, that project becomes much harder to do. This state-owned land here, if the funding came together and all three municipalities are okay with this project, that expansion could happen a lot faster, because for all the good work that the DOT-led study has done that's been looking at the FEC, that we've been partners throughout, sometimes more involved than others the way that that's all gone, this could happen really quickly, too, on the FEC.

But the one thing that that study has not really looked at closely is where can you store trains on the FEC? And much like in Riviera Beach, all up and down the corridor, there tend to be much more residential land uses near the FEC corridor than along this corridor.

You know, is -- is this a perfect location? It's got some flaws that we're trying to iron out. You know, our -- you know, in working with three different cities, it's challenging to treat everybody the same. And you know, in all honesty, our initial concern was working with Mangonia because we felt like their residential areas were most directly potentially impacted. But that being said --

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Madam Chair?

**JOE QUINTY:** -- doing that on the FEC, gosh, are you doing it near -- near the port and trying to utilize land that you want to use for port and freight access instead, trying to store passenger trains? Are you doing something in West Palm in sensitive areas? Are you looking further up the line? It even gets more residential along the FEC. That study hasn't gotten to that level.

And what we're trying to do on the RTA standpoint, this project for us meets the short-term needs for the existing Tri-Rail service but means a three- to five-year time frame to bringing Tri-Rail extension north on the FEC to Riviera Beach, to Palm Beach Gardens and Jupiter, can happen faster as a result of this facility.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Where are you -- where are you servicing your trains and doing all that now?

**JOE QUINTY:** Right now the storage and light maintenance happens in West Palm Beach immediately north of Okeechobee Boulevard just south of our West Palm station. That's on the edge of the downtown.

And you know, what's been an interesting transition there over the years is, you know, back in the '80s when that was -- was set up -- downtown has sort of crept us around us. And it's created a -- as -- as Council Member Davis says, you know, you -- you've heard some West Palm folks mention about noise. And in one regard, yes, there -- there's a -- there's some buildings that are pretty close there that are actually a lot closer than any residences would be that we're trying to do.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** I -- I understand that.

**JOE QUINTY:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** And I kind of feel you're trying to be sensitive with it. This is my issue. Just like West Palm Beach wants to create their downtown, give a great environment for their residents and -- and be able to experience their downtown environment with the Kravis Center and all that and not have to look at those trains there, I'm not interested in having you bring that here for us to look at.

We're trying to move our city forward so we don't -- we don't have that. So why -- what would be the purpose of us saying, Hey, listen. We're glad that you may consider going north sometimes years from now. But until you consider that and until we actually put that forward, we want to just have our trains home to be with -- in Riviera Beach so that we can look at that and experience that.

And you haven't piqued my interest enough to say, Hey, let's just really be looking at this. I -- I need you the same way you look at the West Palm Beach area and Lake Worth and Boynton and Delray. I need you to have that same thought process about Riviera Beach or we're never going to be able to get to that point where these cities are.

I'm really not, you know, with the chummy words and all that because this right here is going to affect us and it's going to be there for a while if it comes there. And councils prior -- after I'm gone and after this council's gone are gonna be fighting to say, We don't want that here. We want to be able to do some different things.

**JOE QUINTY:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** So I'm trying to nip it at the bud, is really what I -- what I'm trying to do. And if you're able to -- and I'm just speaking for me. If you're able to give me something else other than what you've given me tonight to have me to seriously consider the benefit of this, I would welcome that. But at this time I'm -- I'm not just seeing it.

**JOE QUINTY:** I -- I guess I would say I can't stress strongly enough how interested we are in extending our service to the north and having a stop in Riviera Beach. And --

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Um, Miss Davis and then Mr. Lowe.

**JOE QUINTY:** -- and -- and -- and --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Well, he -- he --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Oh. You -- he (inaudible). Okay.

**JOE QUINTY:** -- the only thing that -- you know, maybe my response came off the wrong way in getting out of West Palm Beach. Our limitations in West Palm Beach are technical, that we don't have -- we've stretched out the fence. We can't fit any more trains. We -- we can't do anything more.

No matter what the City of West Palm says, we have a right to store our trains there at Okeechobee Boulevard for here until eternity. And we are prepared to do that if we have to. And in some form or fashion, probably we're going to utilize that site for something along those lines at some point in the day, storing some trains anyhow. The reality is, this is a long linear piece. It's -- it's almost found public land. I understand that for Riviera, you know, industrial tax bases is a lot -- bread and butter in a lot of ways. But this isn't generating any tax base for you. We're not connecting any utilities to this of yours.

You know, it's -- it's a challenge and if you weren't asking these questions I'd be wondering if you weren't paying attention. With that being said --

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Well, I am.

**JOE QUINTY:** -- we -- we want to be your partner going forward to doing more than just storing trains here, that it's tucked away next to the old 84 Lumber and behind Cisco. We don't think it'll be a detriment in -- in that regard. But again, I know perception, you want economic activity and -- and having some Tri-Rail trains sitting there overnight doesn't scream economic activity. And we want to be your partners

doing much more than -- than just this for you in the future.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Okay, thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Miss Davis? Miss Davis next and then --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh, he was -- he had asked first.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- Mr. Lowe. Okay.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Then I'll go after.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Yes. Um, you mentioned a point in the game and you said this was early in the game.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Yes.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** But in my opinion, we're late in the game. Now, I realize the significance of Mission Spur and our position in terms of Riviera Beach as it relates to connectivity to the CSX and the FEC.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** There's only three points that you can access the CSX line and that's in Jacksonville, Riviera Beach, and Miami. Now, I know that they're purchasing -- FEC is purchasing land in West Palm Beach for, you know, what they -- what they're trying to do with Amtrak and the Fast Rail Project.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** That's fine and good.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** But also, as it relates to tying the CSX line with the FEC line, there's plan -- there's future plans to put a Grand Central Station in West Palm Beach where the existing connection in Riviera Beach gets the maintenance facility.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** And hold -- hold on. I know -- I know you want to say something but I've been following this for a long, long time. You know, and that's our issue here in Riviera Beach. When it came to having a Tri-Rail station in Riviera Beach, our site was, um -- wasn't even considered because they said it was too secure. They said it was too winding to connect the CSX to the FEC.

Just like you can fix technical problems with what exists with the maintenance facilities in West Palm Beach and here --

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** -- they could do that for Riviera Beach.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Who has to sit right here existingly with dead tracks and spurs in -- in the city -- in the center of our industrial area.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** You know, that's why we're trying to act as a catalyst to try

to boost that area. But --

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Right.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** -- FDOT, they own land. FP&L, they own land. Everybody owns land but nobody's taking the responsibility. You know, we're more than just a maintenance yard.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** You know, we are a transportation hub and FDOT has failed to come up with a viable transportation plan where, one, we can get people, you know, on a commuter rail system; and, two, we can bring economic vitality to that area.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** You know, and -- and we're -- we're way past the conversation when it comes to that.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Matter of fact, Riviera Beach isn't even guaranteed a spot for a Tri-Rail station on 13<sup>th</sup> Street. You know? They wanted -- they -- they want to put it in Lake Park versus Riviera Beach.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** And I know this for a fact because I've talked to --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** -- DOT. This isn't secondhand stuff that I'm -- that I'm getting. But the point is, the station at 13<sup>th</sup> Street is very important to us. You know, it connects us to -- to the port. It connects us to our downtown. We have plans for transportation-oriented development right there in that central location. And guess who's spending the money right now? Riviera Beach is. But nobody else is investing in Riviera Beach. And I'm talking about the institutional organizations like FDOT.

Everybody want to bypass us and use us for, you know, a maintenance facility and stuff like that. But when we're -- we're trying to revitalize our communities and make transportation a -- not a burden for folks that can't afford it.

Now, right now, getting to Mangonia Park Tri-Rail Station, you have to take Congress and go all the way out of the way to get there.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** But we could fix that problem. You know, we can fix a lot of problems where we could turn Riviera Beach around because it was built that way. Fifty years ago it was built that way. It's the only connection. But everybody is going away from us.

And you know, I don't like it because we're sitting right in the -- you're gonna spend more money putting a Grand Central station in West Palm Beach than you will connecting these lines right here in Riviera Beach, 'cause it already exists. And we can have transportation to the north within the next three to five years as opposed to 10 years with you trying to assemble the land and all that stuff, the acquisition and right-of-

way and all of that stuff down in West Palm Beach.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** And that affects people, you know, getting back and forth from Miami to Delray to Jupiter to Hope Sound to Orlando to Tampa to Jacksonville. Riviera Beach is right in the central portion of that. And we gotta be in the conversation. You know, and I -- I -- I respect you coming up here to present this particular plan and I see where it'll fit in. But like Mr. Thomas said, where is the -- where is the benefit to Riviera Beach? We have a lot of concerns.

**JOE QUINTY:** And Council Member, I think one thing I'm gonna share with you is sometimes my frustration with the DOT because it's confusing the cities right now. And you know, if -- if everyone's calendars weren't as busy and -- this time of year, I would have had Kim DeLaney from Treasure Coast here with me to -- 'cause she usually seems to be the best of sorting out the different pieces of what's what.

Because everyone gets RTA, FDOT and the FEC all mixed up with who's doing what right now.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh.

**JOE QUINTY:** Because there's about four different plans on how to get things going on the FEC.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Right.

**JOE QUINTY:** And with us, we're -- we're partners with the F -- with FDOT on the local commuter rail aspect of it. With that being said, with they being the lead for the study -- and there was a period where they kind of went on their own track and didn't talk to everybody for about a year and a half as much as they should have. And that caused a lot of grief and problems with us and we -- it seems we -- we seem to be patching it up and getting back together on the same track. You gotta love train puns.

But the thing that's really challenging for us is they're -- as it -- you know, talking to city staff here over the last couple days, you know, DOT is showing to the MPOs and others a map right now that shows the northern extension branching off a Tri-Rail that doesn't have a Riviera Beach site and giving the impression that it's going to be a -- a three-man death match of Lake Park, Riviera and 45<sup>th</sup> Street in West Palm to see who gets a station.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh.

**JOE QUINTY:** And that I -- I think from, you know, a meeting you had with our senior management, uh, six months to a year ago, uh, down in Pompano Beach, that is not the approach we want to take at all. The new equipment that we've got coming in, the new locomotives, we knew that more cities want service on the FEC, that you want stations that could be at two miles or even a mile and a half, if possible, which generally doesn't fit commuter rail and doesn't match with the old equipment that we run now. But that's why we spec'd out the new stuff that's coming in, the shiny new aerodynamic locomotive that Lynda spoke about and showed in the picture.

We knew that we want to be able to run one-and-a-half-mile to two-mile spacing if need be. And instead of creating all this havoc, our management does not care one bit. We

will stop at 45<sup>th</sup> Street, Riviera Beach, Lake Park, Palm Beach Gardens and Jupiter. You know, some of the -- some of the DOT --

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** We want it to stop at 13<sup>th</sup>. You -- I -- you know, 13<sup>th</sup> Street. That's --

**JOE QUINTY:** And -- and we -- we know 13<sup>th</sup> -- you know, talking to your CRA and others, we -- we -- we know your vision of 13<sup>th</sup> Street. We think it makes sense and -- and commuter rail complements that. And this is not as much a transportation project, the FEC service, as an economic development project. And saying that you're going to leave out stations for a later phase and maybe 10 years later, something like that, that -- that defeats the whole purpose of doing it. It's -- you don't want trains blowing through towns when you could be creating economic development in those towns. And that's a -- I think a -- one of the visions between ourselves and the DOT that is starting to come together but it's not quite there yet. But, you know, we are working out roles and responsibilities that in 2013, who's gonna be coming back here and talking to you about the details of the FEC local service coming on. We're going to be directly involved in that.

And I think you're going to see some different thoughts and layouts of how to -- to not create competition among cities, but instead create opportunities for cities and link them together instead of, you know -- you know, I think there's such great opportunities here at 13<sup>th</sup> Street and in Lake Park. I mean, putting everybody on the map and connected up. That's the way it needs to be.

I mean, you've got a bus service that right now takes over a half-hour to get, uh, you know, from the Riviera Beach area to downtown West Palm, and we can get you there in 10 minutes when the train comes in.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Right.

**JOE QUINTY:** That's the sort of things we're -- it's going to create access for your residents and help create economic development and opportunities. And that's what we want to do forward.

And connected to that is doing this project to store the extra trains that are needed to do all this. And I know sometimes that link hasn't always been clear because, again, that FEC study never -- you know, the hard decisions are picking stations to a certain degree. But even harder is getting those details of where you're going to store the FEC trains for that new local service. And that conversation really hasn't come up. And that's why branching off a Tri-Rail is the answer because we've got the big, heavy maintenance yard down in Miami that Miami likes having. And we want to keep this -- the lower level service --

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Well, let me ask you this.

**JOE QUINTY:** -- in West Palm.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** The existing maintenance yard at the West Palm Beach station, you know, what are your plans? Are you going to sell it to FEC or develop it or, you know -- 'cause I know they got plans for that particular piece. And it's not going to be a maintenance yard because the maintenance yard will be in -- in Riviera Beach.

**JOE QUINTY:** Well, you know, I --

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** And they'll put something there that, you know, they can develop and prosper off of and --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** -- you know --

**JOE QUINTY:** Just to -- just to differentiate the -- the -- the big FEC station in downtown West Palm, you know, the -- where we store trains now is just south of the existing West Palm Beach Tri-Rail station.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** I know where it is. Yeah.

**JOE QUINTY:** That is part of the South Florida rail corridor which is transportation and industrial use. As much as some folks in the city would like to see us move, we have no plans for what to do with that because we may be taking over maintenance of the corridor within the next couple years and we may store maintenance equipment there. So we -- we're not -- you know, the City of West Palm likes to ask what are we -- and I don't want to play that we're telling different cities different things. But we are not at all -

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** I understand.

**JOE QUINTY:** -- committing to future use of that site because --

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** It won't be a maintenance facility near CityPlace. I -- I doubt it.

**JOE QUINTY:** Uh, it's -- it's there and it's been there for 20 some years and we're in no hurry to --

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** They don't want it there.

**JOE QUINTY:** -- they -- they can want all they want. The FR -- FTA -- you know, it's been there. The feds -- we -- we keep enhancing that to try -- to make it work better. What's gonna happen to that site, I don't know. We're not planning for it. We -- we'll worry about that if we -- if we can get approval from three different towns that we want to put it up --

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** I understand.

**JOE QUINTY:** -- here.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Thank you. Thank you very much.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Miss Davis.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** I'm sorry. Um, you said something a little while ago. And - and when -- when you -- all of this came up in the MPO meeting, I about jumped out of my chair because I had the same feelings that, you know, my colleagues are having, um, about, you know, why is Riviera Beach always the dumping ground? And I said that.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Right.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Um, so you said something a little earlier that if this maintenance facility wasn't placed where you're talking about here, that it would be more difficult to put in the Tri-Rail station at 13<sup>th</sup> Street. Why is that?

**JOE QUINTY:** Because no area to -- to store and maintain trains on the northern FEC line has been identified or looked at seriously.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** So why wouldn't it work with the existing?

**JOE QUINTY:** Because we can't fit any more trains in the West Palm yard so --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay.

**JOE QUINTY:** -- and -- and putting, you know -- wanting more service, we either have to put more trains or put longer trains.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay.

**JOE QUINTY:** And for the short term we want to use longer trains.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay. And the second question is that I asked at -- at MPO is, um, had you looked anywhere else further north?

**JOE QUINTY:** We're -- we're somewhat limited by how far north we can look on the CSX because the State only owns up to Interstate 95 approximately.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay. All right.

**JOE QUINTY:** So in -- in looking at -- yeah, that's -- and we don't have any rights to run anything on the FEC yet so we weren't looking on the FEC corridor, although it's been looked at casually as part of that eight-year analysis of trying to bring local commuter rail service to the FEC.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** All right.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Mr. Thomas.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Sir, um, are you interested at all in pressing on the fact of giving Riviera Beach a station?

**JOE QUINTY:** I -- I think from our management standpoint, Riviera Beach makes sense. And knowing the lay of the land and bringing service to Northern Palm Beach County, I don't envision how a Tri-Rail Jupiter extension is going to happen without a station in Riviera Beach. You know, it looks good on the map right now. You know, having gone to every -- to almost every MPO meeting for the last six years and knowing the way -- way things -- you know, technical says one thing. We want to expand opportunities to as many cities as possible and -- and bring our service to new places. And to -- to me, some of the maps and -- and a lot of the years of back and forth and the different plans has everybody confused. And -- and we're -- you know, for years, even when it was just us doing some analysis back in '03 of trying to do a quick Tri-Rail extension to Jupiter, always had a Riviera Beach station.

And I know the sites change a little bit over the years. For a while they thought it might be here or Blue Heron, some other points down closer to the port. Then it seemed after the -- the Regional Planning Council shred efforts and revisions to the redevelopment

plan, 13<sup>th</sup> Street seemed to come together as -- as the place. If -- if that's where you want it, we know that Riviera -- you know, we want to serve Riviera. We want to serve Lake Park. We want to serve Gardens. We want to serve Jupiter, all the way up the line and expand opportunities.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Are -- are you interested in pressing on the fact that we have to have -- that I'm just curious about how you feel about it --

**JOE QUINTY:** I --

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** -- since you're one of the point and lead people in this.

**JOE QUINTY:** -- I -- I feel strongly about it. And our -- our -- your staff has heard -- because I think the approach that the state has taken with this study puts anybody associated in a tough -- MPO staff, who's been involved, and Regional Planning Council, too, who's worked with you for years to do the Charrettes and make sure the site's right and talk to your staff over and over again.

And then you see a map that says, Well, the travel demand model that's used for roads, that the next time it gets transit right in South Florida will be the first time, it says Riviera and Lake Park, no one really wants to get on or off the train there so that'll wait later. That doesn't -- you know, that sounds great in theory when you're in your cube and working on the numbers.

But in reality, working through bodies to get things approved and get things done and bring more partners to the table, that doesn't fly. And you want to connect up as many communities as possible and enhance those communities.

Your reaction will probably be even worse if there's no station. All you have now is 50 trains -- 50 passenger trains a day blocking Blue Heron Boulevard faster than your freight trains do now. But that's going to make things a thousand times worse. The reality is we know there's gotta be a station in Riviera Beach. And -- and we're gonna -- we look forward to working with you to influence the process to make sure there is one.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** I just want to make sure that my message is clear. We have a lot of development going on in our marina area, which is right up the street from where a potential train station can go that would help foot traffic get there, that will help, you know, that boom. And I'm a hundred percent interested in making that happen.

What I'm not interested in is helping Tri-Rail help themselves without making sure Riviera Beach is benefiting from it. Those years of that type of stuff is really gone in my mind. And I would work as hard as I can to make sure that Riviera Beach is not forgotten about. And I don't really turn over easy, no matter what they may say, whoever the "they" may be.

I'm very serious about Riviera Beach being able to make sure that we're just as good, if not better, as any of the other sites around, from the CityPlaces to the Baysides. Riviera Beach has it. A lot of people recognize that. What most people that are outside of this may not have recognized is that we recognize it, as well, and we're not gonna just let our assets be just taken. We're going to leverage our assets to the max.

And I promise you if I get word that you're not taking us serious about this, you'll see me at every meeting. I'll talk to you directly and whoever else I need to talk to all the way

up. Riviera Beach will not be forgotten on this. And I'm as serious as I can be about this. This -- it's time out for that. We need that type of economic boost here. And with all of the infrastructure that we're putting in, it needs to be there to support it. And I'm very serious about it. I just want you to make sure that you take that message and let them know that I'm serious.

**JOE QUINTY:** I'm -- I appreciate that. I'm glad it's on the record and I'll -- I'll tell you on the record that conversations I've had with Mary and Jeff and Terrence in recent days, you know, sharing RTA's perspective on how we want to see the service on the FEC go forward is consistent with we don't see any issue with 45<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Lake Park and the Gardens and Jupiter all getting stations.

Making everybody pick and choose does nobody -- does no good for anybody. We need to, as a county, move together unified to make it happen. Instead of creating something where piecemealing cities and -- and competing against each other, a rising tide's going to lift all boats on this one. And knowing your redevelopment plan very well, we want to be a bridge to get people to and from that and make it happen faster, also. So I -- I see that as a win-win for us and working -- not believing what the -- the highway travel model says, but working with what the community wants. That's something we see that has to happen for that project to move forward.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Madam Chair?

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Thank you for your dialogue. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Mr. Lowe.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Um, is this -- is this --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** And let the record show that the Mayor is here, please.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** -- is it still in the plan for us to fund our own stations, the cities to do that? And if that's the case, you know, we're willing to fund our own stations and allow the layover in our back yard. It shouldn't be a problem guaranteeing a -- a station at 13<sup>th</sup> Street. I mean, it's a give-and-take type of thing. And we're all a part of a system that's trying to provide transportation for the community. That's all our charge. So --

**JOE QUINTY:** No, you know, the -- the financing --

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** -- just something to take back to the -- to the powers that be.

**JOE QUINTY:** No. No, the -- the financing plans --

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Our thought pattern.

**JOE QUINTY:** -- financing plan's being refined. Uh, you'll see something more definitive back to your staff and perhaps even to this council by mid 2013, 'cause, you know, when RTA -- we tried to hustle this process along about a year ago and tried to say, You know, what can you do really fast to connect up all three counties? We put a plan out there that now has been folded into the FDOT process.

And as they've been merged, you know, some of our financial approach has been tied in. And I think what's always been hinted at through the many years of FEC's study is

for new service; there's some sort of local municipal contribution's going to be in the mix, whether it's towards the cap -- you know, towards station related or, you know, preferably from the RTA's standpoint, an ongoing O and -- operating and maintenance would be our preference. But that's being hashed out right now in -- in -- in great detail in something we're looking to come back to you on 2013 and talk about.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** All right. Thank you very much. I know we took up a lot of your time, but thank you.

**JOE QUINTY:** Hopefully we solved all these rail problems. You know?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Oh, it's not solved. I wish it was that easy but --

**JOE QUINTY:** A lot more to be solved but this sort of dialogue, uh, hopefully -- we need more of this to make it happen. So thank you for your time.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** All right.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Yes. Thank you very much. We appreciate your, um, allowing us to go through the project. And you're so right to bring up the passenger service in conjunction with the layover, because they are connected. And it's -- it's all about how they work together. So thank you for your time.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh, if there are no further comments, we do have one card.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** I do have -- you have comment cards?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** I do have one other thing that I just want to put out on the record. If the trains are actually going to be stored there, that means that our emergency personnel would have to respond to any emergencies that -- that happen.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** No. No, it depends on what --

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** So that --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** -- where the emergency -- where the incident --

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** I'm saying if it's a break-in or if it's --

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** -- whatever issue it is --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** But (inaudible) it's gonna be in our city.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Right. I just -- if it's anywhere in Riviera Beach and something happens, that means that our taxpayers will be paying for, you know, whatever services you get to that.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** So that does need to be taken into consideration.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Yes, it does. And --

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Okay.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** -- one thing that we are discussing with staff now is the potential for an inter-local agreement among the three municipalities so that we can spell out all the roles and responsibilities and expectations going forward. We think that would be a good idea to have that clarity.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Please make sure that our staff, as well as our elected officials --

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Yes.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** -- are notified and involved when you have public meetings --

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** -- and when you're discussing this issue, especially if you want us to participate in signing a --

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** -- tri-party agreement.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Okay.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** It would -- we just want the same respect that you would give to the other two --

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** Oh, we absolutely will.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** -- cities.

**LYNDA MIFSUD:** We absolutely will. We're -- we'll work very closely with you and thank you again for your time.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Thank you. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** We do have one comment card from, um, Gerald Ward.

**GERALD WARD:** Gerald Ward, 31 W. 20<sup>th</sup> Street. I have a whole century now of dealing in various train issues, uh, with DOT, with Tri-Rail or whatever they want to be called now. And now we have some private folks that probably will get the job done. They're looking to 2014 instead of stringing it out to 2020 and after.

This presentation was grossly deficient. Two pages of, uh, poor quality graphics. You really didn't know except what they verbalized. And I -- I -- since we now have a court reporter type transcript, it'll be interesting to see how many times they talked about how they talked to staff. But nowhere do they talk about talking to the public that are affected.

Uh, the crossover is extremely important. Most of you brought that out. Between CSX and FEC, it serves our Lewis Terminals. It serves our -- lots of our industrial area. There is no discussion about how that's going to be impeded.

Noise. All you have to do -- and everybody here, and I want to see the Planning Board involved -- has to go down to the Marriott, Clearwater place in West Palm Beach, and go to the back parking lot and listen to the noise. Now, also, smell. Uh, this is right adjacent to Port Center. So Mrs. Perry, maybe when the air conditioning, uh, system starts to take in the exhaust fumes from this, needs to -- to -- to weigh in whether she

and her employees out there at Port Center are happy.

Uh, the noise. Seeburger from, uh, the DOT continually tells me I can't hear the train at my house on the beach side in Riviera Beach. And that's just plain false. He says --

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** That's right.

**GERALD WARD:** -- Oh, just -- so the noise studies don't make sense. Um, you need a property ownership map. They represented some things about property. I want to see the map and see if it really is like it was represented.

Send it to the P & Z at some point in time. Uh, idling is excessive in terms of time that they -- and then power up and leaving. And then they came to the real coup de grace. Nothing in Riviera Beach but the tracks. So what is it? The air pollution or the noise pollution that we get. And it sounds to me like it's another car crusher that will take us two years to resolve, uh, before we get it straight.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Thank you for your comments, Mr. Ward. There are no other comment cards?

**CITY CLERK WARD:** No.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** We're now at number 10.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Presentation by Florida Department of Transportation on improvement to Beeline Highway/State Road 710 from west of Congress Avenue to west of Australian Avenue. Scope of work includes widening the existing roadway from two to four lanes, installation of bike lane, curb and gutter, sidewalks, lighting, landscaping, signing and pavement marking and resurfacing.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** And who's --

**MEREDITH CRUZ:** Hi, thank you for having us. My name is Meredith Cruz. I'm the public information officer for FDOT Construction in Palm Beach County. And this is just a brief introduction to our project team and who we are, so if there's any issues down the road you can contact us and we can handle it quickly.

Also with us we also have a project coming up on Blue Heron. It's very minor compared to Beeline. It's four months long. It's going to start, uh, next week, and we're going to have an open house actually here next Tuesday. So we just want to briefly introduce that project manager, as well.

**SCOTT RYDER:** My name is, uh -- first of all, thank you for having us. My name is Scott Ryder. I'm the project administrator. What that really means is I provide the oversight of day-to-day operation on the widening on -- on Beeline.

Uh, Beeline, real quick, is just from, uh, Congress Ave. to Australian. Uh, it includes some widening, some signalization, new drainage system, a joint partnership with the City for a new water system and a new sewer system. The contract's scheduled for about 500 days. We're in our 25<sup>th</sup> day. We've had our open house. It was a very successful open house. And, uh, we look forward to working with the City and the people along the corridor.

If there's ever any questions, uh, I'm an -- it's an open-door policy. If you need my number, uh, it's -- it's out there. I'll be happy to leave it. Feel free to call.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Sir, how many days did you say the project is? I didn't hear that.

**SCOTT RYDER:** Five hundred days, ma'am.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Five hundred. Uh-huh. Okay.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Miss Davis?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Um, I was on the council, um, when we first started talking about the widening of State Road 710 back in '05, I believe, '04/'05, somewhere around there. And I distinctly remember a site plan that, um, showed a, um -- a noise wall with foliage. And, um, we discussed that because -- and I -- I was driving down, um, State Road 710 today from Congress Avenue. Now, from Congress Avenue heading east on the north side, there are the backs of homes. Okay?

You've got Stonybrook on the right. Now, when you cross, um, Australian Avenue, on the south side you have homes. Okay? And that's where that wall was supposed to go with the foliage. Now, when we were discussing this way back when, um, you know, nobody said anything at that particular time about this project being done in piecemeal.

You know, at that particular time it was the entire thing. So because FDOT or the economy or whatever took place, um, you know, you decided that this project was going to be piecemealed and those plans just kind of fell by the wayside. So my question is, um -- those homes are still there. And there are going to be, uh -- there's going to be much more truck traffic. And, um, I think that there needs to be a -- a wall barrier. There needs to be some foliage there to catch some of this dust that's going to be kicked up by the increased number of trucks that are going to be using that highway.

So what can you tell me about what FDOT is going to do about that?

**SCOTT RYDER:** Well, I'm going to give you the typical disclosure. The design part of it, when you're -- when you're talking --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** You remember the plan I'm talking about, right?

**SCOTT RYDER:** No, ma'am. I actually don't.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Somebody does 'cause I --

**SCOTT RYDER:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, no doubt.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Yeah.

**SCOTT RYDER:** No doubt someone does.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay.

**SCOTT RYDER:** In our open house we had discussion about that sound wall.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** That's right.

**SCOTT RYDER:** But the set of plans that I got from FDOT to design -- I mean, to build, there was no sound wall in it.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Correct. Well --

**SCOTT RYDER:** And --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** -- and -- and I believe that is because it kind of got lost with -- there was a whole 'nother council that took -- took -- took place and, you know, nobody really thought about it. But those plans were there and that's what was talked about. I don't know if they were approved back then but, um, they do exist.

**SCOTT RYDER:** Yes. I -- there's been enough conversation about the sound wall where I believe it was discussed at one point.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh.

**SCOTT RYDER:** I -- again, I don't know the history on the -- the sound wall going away or -- or why it was. Um, I can look into it. I can make it public to Meredith. But again, on the -- on the design portion, it's such a long history of this job. You're so correct.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh.

**SCOTT RYDER:** As we watched the three projects develop, even the project that we're working on now, this .8 miles, took so long to get started and, uh, so there's a lot of history on it.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh.

**SCOTT RYDER:** There's a lot of, uh, concerns. But for me telling you the history, I -- I would have to get that answer for you on the sound wall. I'm sorry.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** I would really like for -- do you -- do you plan to do another, uh -- or you're gonna be starting -- it's already started, right?

**SCOTT RYDER:** Yes, ma'am. Twenty-five days.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay. I would really like to just see the plans. Um, because, you know -- and -- and I know I can't make FDOT do anything. But I think, um, you -- you should take it back to Mr. Wolfe and whoever else, um, that the residents need, you know -- they deserve to have some kind of, um, protection against, you know, the increased traffic.

**SCOTT RYDER:** Yes, ma'am. I can share that concern.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Absolutely.

**SCOTT RYDER:** All right. Thank you.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Thank you. I'm done.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**SCOTT CAVENDISH:** Hello. My name is Scott Cavendish. I am senior project engineer for the Corradino Group. And we will be overseeing the construction, um, the resurfacing and minor improvements to Blue Heron from just east of 95 to Avenue S with the exception of the portion in the middle where Congress intersection was just redone. And from right out here at Avenue H down to U.S. 1. Um, it's just a 3R project. We're going to be milling and resurfacing the asphalt, upgrading the ADA ramps and some minor drainage improvements as needed.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Did you say three hour?

**SCOTT CAVENDISH:** 3R.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Oh.

**SCOTT CAVENDISH:** Um, 3R. The project is --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Madam Chair.

**SCOTT CAVENDISH:** -- 110 days long and --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Miss -- oh, excuse me.

**SCOTT CAVENDISH:** -- the, um, time starts on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Okay.

**SCOTT CAVENDISH:** There will be an open house next Tuesday here in this chamber.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Miss Davis.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Was -- was this project moved up some? Because, um, I thought it was, like, 2014 or was it -- was it moved up in the schedule?

**SCOTT CAVENDISH:** I'm not aware of that. It had been on the planned projects list for about a year now but --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay. Well, maybe I'm thinking 2013, then --

**SCOTT CAVENDISH:** Right.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** -- on that. Okay. All right. Thank you.

**SCOTT CAVENDISH:** Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** And --

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Yes, Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Mr. Thomas?

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Uh, the 34 date project on Blue Heron, what -- what project was that? That seems to have slipped my --

**SCOTT CAVENDISH:** Which project?

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** I thought I heard the young lady say that it's a short project of -

**MEREDITH CRUZ:** Four months.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** -- four -- oh, four months?

**SCOTT CAVENDISH:** Yeah, 110 days. Yeah, four months.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Okay. Where's -- what -- what's going to be going on with that?

**SCOTT CAVENDISH:** We're going to be milling and resurfacing the pavement.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Where?

**SCOTT CAVENDISH:** From east of I-95 to Avenue S, with the exception of the portion that was just done at Congress Avenue. And then again from right outside here at Avenue H down to U.S. 1.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** You're going to be doing what to the pavement?

**SCOTT CAVENDISH:** Removing the pavement and putting -- putting new asphalt down.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Resurfacing.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** In the actual road?

**SCOTT CAVENDISH:** Yes, yes, yes.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Okay.

**SCOTT CAVENDISH:** And we'll be upgrading the, um, curb ramps, the ADA ramps. Bring those up to compliance, as well.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Put those little yellow things on them and --

**SCOTT CAVENDISH:** Yeah. Correct. Yes.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** -- new little street lights and --

**SCOTT CAVENDISH:** No signal and --

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** I was trying, man.

**SCOTT CAVENDISH:** Right. Right. Right.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** No problem. We appreciate it. I was trying. I was trying.

**SCOTT CAVENDISH:** You can try. Thank you.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Um, Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Any -- yes, dear.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Mr. Ryder once more? Um, we've had residents who've attended the, um -- the MPO meetings who are concerned about the cemetery. Um, now, again, when we talked about this project a long time ago, there was no mention of widening, um, putting in any turn lanes on Australian Avenue.

A couple of meetings ago, um, Commissioner Taylor asked FDOT to please provide -- asked for Mr. Whitfield to ask you to please provide a letter indicating that you were not going to be touching the cemetery and, to date, we have not received that letter. And I still have -- I see some residents out there in the audience who are concerned that you are going to be doing something to the cemetery. So could you please send something in writing that you will not be touching the cemetery?

Um, we know that there have been people out there doing, I guess, the surveys because the County is giving you their right-of-way -- the right-of-way that's being encroached upon or whatever. And so that we can put these people's minds to rest, we -- we need that information in writing.

**SCOTT RYDER:** Yes, ma'am. And again, I'll -- I'll pass that on to Meredith. But the project that I'm here that I'm responsible for, I can tell you right now we're not doing anything on Australian. We just might put a few ADA ramps at the connection of Australian.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** I understand.

**SCOTT RYDER:** Beeline. But I'll express your concern. But I'm not touching it in this

project.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** I understand. Okay.

**SCOTT RYDER:** All right?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** All right. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Any other comments, questions? We do have a comment -- two comment cards.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Miss Jones?

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Um, and for the benefit of the public, 'cause it wasn't quite clear, uh, I just wanted to announce for the Blue Heron project that's going to start, there will be an open house here in City Hall on the 11<sup>th</sup> from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. So residents are welcome to come in, to see what is planned, ask any questions about timelines and timetables. But that will be December the 11<sup>th</sup> from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. here in City Hall.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** And we are using our TV to announce this, I would hope?

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Very good. Uh, we have Mr. Gerald Ward and then Mr. Herman McCray.

**GERALD WARD:** Gerald Ward, 31 W. 20<sup>th</sup> Street. Well, you now have two more DOT projects that are fouled up as usual. Uh, 500 days for State Road 710 is obviously a lot less than -- than State Road 5's project. But once again, DOT didn't show tonight. They sent consultants, uh, which is avoiding the problems you have.

The bus pull-off is still now by our old wastewater plant, our ground storage tank, not where it can be used by the residents of -- of, uh, the area, the single-family area to the north where Mr. Thomas lives and in the Stonybrook. If we're going to keep Stonybrook we need to serve them so that they don't walk a block and a half to find a bus.

Uh, this was raised. I came back and managed to get to the end of the meeting last week and Thompson really understood, "Oh, yes, we -- we did say we were going to work on that but we never got to it." So somewhere along the line, we're not following up with DOT.

Cruz is -- is the perennial communication consultant but you really need to follow up directly with DOT folks and not, uh, as much with the consultants, because as they just told you, they're not going to do anything different than the plan says and, uh, Mrs. Davis lost her -- her noise barriers and we have a problem there.

State Road 708. I don't see where Clarence has gotten any speed zones modified. We have an up-and-down problem with 40 mile an hour, 35 mile an hour, school zones, inadequate marking of the -- and signage for the school zones. This is an excellent opportunity that should have been done. I didn't know this project was coming up till I saw the variable message boards in the last week.

Then lastly, manholes. Mrs. Pardo raised this issue from Avenue H east to F Avenue, and last time the DOT did the resurfacing, they totally screwed up the harmonization of the manhole covers. So has somebody in staff taken your suggestions of a month and

a half, two months ago, to get something done? Is there in writing that they're going to get them right this time? So I -- it -- we keep raising issues in council but we don't seem to get product.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Miss Pardo.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Thank you. Uh, Miss Jones?

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Yes.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Do we have anything in the agreement about the manhole covers? You know, this is, like Mr. Ward said -- this is the opportunity to make sure that the manhole covers are right. You know, when I brought it up, I heard from you and one of your staff people and you said, "Well, you know, that's just how it is and there's nothing that we can do about it."

Well, I think now with the resurfacing, we can do something about it, and I think that you should have a discussion with them and, you know -- and mandate that something is done. You know, they were able to, um, properly fix the manhole covers along A1A --

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Yes.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** -- when that project -- when they were working on that project. So, um, you know, if it's good enough for the island it's --

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Yeah.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** -- good enough for the mainland.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** And we will continue to work with that because what you find happens is until they put down the final level of asphalt, there is a lip. And so that's what makes it, uh, difficult. This project will not be nearly as long. They'll be putting that layer down a lot earlier and we will be monitoring that as relates to the manholes along Blue Heron when they're doing this project.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Thank you.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** 'Cause it can be difficult going over them.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. That's it? Okay. Mr. McCray?

**HERMAN McCRAY:** Herman McCray, 2315 Avenue S, Riviera Beach. You know, one of the things that concerns me is that, uh, the port, FDOT, people coming here tonight from the Tri-Rail, and it all seem like they come tell us what they're gonna do and we have -- seem to have no objection to -- in the planning process of what they tell us they're going to do, as if this is, you know, somebody just come in and do what the hell they want. And we have no say so as to what we can do.

Do -- do we really sit down with them in the initial planning of this stuff and say, Hey, this will or that won't be? You know, because that -- that -- that bothers me to coming in here. I think Cedrick asked the question of the man, What is the benefit? I have not heard what the benefit was yet concerning parking the trains out there.

I mean, what -- what economic benefit is it? Just to have them out there? But, I mean,

is there any money coming back. Here the port want to take all the south end of Riviera Beach. I mean -- I mean, who does the City belong to, us or them? And y'all need to start taking time to really become involved instead of just, you know, maybe -- maybe you're not just sitting there. Maybe there's information you don't got I don't particularly have but -- but when it get to this particular point, it seem like this is a done deal.

Now, we're getting ready to have a -- a -- I guess open-house to look at something that's already been done without any input from the community.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Is that it, Mr. McCray? All right. Well, I do believe that the -- that my colleagues have really made their positions very clear. The argument's very strong about our position on some of these plans that have been discussed with us. So we're just not sitting on -- on the sideline here clapping. We're -- we're -- we're getting involved. So that's it?

**CITY CLERK WARD:** That's it.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. What we would like to do now, uh, before going to item number 11, I would like to get my colleagues to agree to allow item 13 for us to vote on now because Mr. Pittman does have an engagement in Fort Lauderdale so is it okay if we allow him --

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Fine with me.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Thank you. Okay. All right. So let's read item 13, please.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Resolution 2012-12. A resolution of the City Council of the City of Riviera Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an agreement between -- between the City of Riviera Beach and Pittman Law Group to provide lobbyist representation at the state level on behalf of the City of Riviera Beach. Compensation shall be \$5,000 per month for the period January the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014, authorizing the Director of Financing and Administrative Services to make payment from -- from the account providing for an effective date.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** So moved.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** So moved.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Um, we don't have a comment card?

**CITY CLERK WARD:** No.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Any comments, any questions from the, uh -- from my colleagues? If not --

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** No, I'd like to just state on the record that I think that Mr. Pittman, you're doing an excellent job for the City. We're -- we're there. We're known. Thank you for getting that -- helping to get that extra 500,000 to do that resurfacing --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** -- of 13<sup>th</sup> Street, which is something that we badly needed. So I appreciate your hard work and you're doing a great job for us. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** And thank you, Mr. Thomas, for highlighting that. We do appreciate what you're doing, Mr. Pittman. Okay. Ready for the vote, please.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Thomas?

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Lowe?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Davis?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Pro-Tem Pardo?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Chair Brooks?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Unanimous vote.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Moving on now to --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** We need more money.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** We're going to keep him busy. Would you like to make a comment, Sean?

**SEAN PITTMAN:** Just, um, thank you very much. Uh, obviously my firm enjoys the opportunity working with y'all. It's a personal thing for us. Um, and we take it personally in Tallahassee. And this is our third year and each year we've been able to bring something home. We promised you a couple of years ago that -- that -- that big things will be happening and they are.

You're doing big things and you're -- you're asking us to do big things. We appreciate that. Um, and we appreciate you coming up. I can't emphasize that enough. Um, the folks we talked to hear from us all the time. I have to share my time between this client and -- and -- and other clients. But when you come, we're able to put an elected in front of an elected, and sometimes a city manager in front of them. And it makes a big, big difference.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Uh-huh.

**SEAN PITTMAN:** So I -- I would -- I would implore you and encourage you to continue to -- to give us that time. We'll do the rest for you. We'll open the doors and we'll be there on Sunday night before they sign that budget to make sure that West Palm doesn't take your money. We'll -- we'll be there. Um, but we appreciate you taking the time to come up, and we -- and we -- we want you to do it a lot. And that -- that -- that -- that appointment in Fort Lauderdale is a flight back because we're in -- we're in committee meetings right now.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh.

**SEAN PITTMAN:** But, uh, it was important that I break away and get down here and --

and -- and be here for -- to let you know how important you are to us. Um, Maria from my Miami office is in the audience. You'll see her around here some because she -- she does some projects for us in Riviera Beach. Madam Pardo, we'd love to help you with your toy drive. She -- she would love to get involved in that. And any --

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** It's tomorrow night.

**SEAN PITTMAN:** Okay. Well, there you go. We were able to -- we were able to help with Mr. Thomas's, uh, turkey giveaway.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Right.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Uh-huh.

**SEAN PITTMAN:** So we -- we -- we really enjoy that kind of thing. So we appreciate you and thank you for the vote tonight and we won't let you down.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** And Mr. Pittman, we know that it's a heart thing with you, as well. You are homegrown.

**SEAN PITTMAN:** Yes, ma'am.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** You -- you go after everything with a passion and that really makes a difference.

**SEAN PITTMAN:** Well, thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** So we just appreciate what you're doing for your city.

**SEAN PITTMAN:** Thank you. All right.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** I expect a report in the morning on the upcoming stuff that you're going to be handling.

**SEAN PITTMAN:** I can give it real quick now if you want. Thank you all very much.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Oh, no. Get out of here. Go to Fort Lauderdale. All right. Now, um, Madam Clerk, we're -- we do have an ordinance on the first reading, item number 11.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Correct.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Which we will read separately. But the manager is looking at us also considering reading item number 12 because they do all relate. So we would still take comments for 11 and 12.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Right.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** And so I'm asking you then to read 11 and 12.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Ordinance number 2012-12, an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Riviera Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, modifying the City's five-year capital projects plan to include the acquisition of real property located 1481 W. 15<sup>th</sup> -- 15<sup>th</sup> Street for a future public service complex, police department, fire department, public works department, for fiscal year 2012/'13 through 2016/'17 providing for severability and conflict and providing an effective date.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** So moved.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Were we going to take them both or are we going to do a motion separately?

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Separate.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Then item -- okay. Then we'll --

**CITY CLERK WARD:** What the manager suggested is that, um, we have one public comment card for item -- for the second item and she just want to combine them.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. So --

**CITY CLERK WARD:** The public comment cards.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Yeah.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- but now for the vote, now, are we going to --

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Separate.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Separate.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Separate? Okay, good. All right. Let's -- um, any comments from my colleagues before we vote on it?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Wait, vote on what?

**MAYOR MASTERS:** (Inaudible) on the, um --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** The public comment cards (inaudible).

**MAYOR MASTERS:** -- do the public comments first?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** We're voting on --

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** (Inaudible).

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** I just want to -- okay. I'm sorry. I didn't hear you, Miss Jones.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** You can do the public comments before you vote.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. All right. Well, we'll do the public comments, then. Starting with item number 11. How many --

**CITY CLERK WARD:** These are 11.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Bruce Guyton?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Wait, Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** I have a question. Are we going to get a presentation first or we're just supposed to vote?

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** (Inaudible).

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. All right.

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SHERMAN:** Good evening.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Thank you.

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SHERMAN:** Uh, for the -- for the record, Randy Sherman, Director of Finance and Administrative Services. Yes, thank you. And I'm -- I'm glad you kind of consolidated the discussion on 11 and 12 'cause they really are intertwined and -- and they're almost identical items but they're doing slightly different things.

First on item 11, you do have an ordinance. And what this ordinance does is it amends the capital improvement element of your comp plan. Originally back in October, you -- you adopted a plan that contained two projects. And really what this ordinance is doing is it's making an amendment to that and taking those two projects and really just making them one project.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Uh-huh.

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SHERMAN:** Um, the other issue is, is when you -- when you adopted that plan, there was absolutely no contemplation about property acquisition. So again, that is now being identified in the plan.

And then likewise with the second item, item 12, is a resolution. And what that does is it does the same process, taking two projects, making them one project, realigning the budgets and identifying the fact that you're doing property acquisition.

So one again is the ordinance with the capital element in the comp plan. The other one is just putting, you know -- realigning the budget and putting that in place. The numbers don't change. They're the same numbers that you had. Uh, again, it's just taking those two projects and combining them.

What I do want to say, too, is that by these votes tonight, uh, this does not end -- this project doesn't, you know, automatically move it forward. Because an ordinance takes two readings, we will have to bring the ordinance back for that second reading.

And what we're looking at at this point is finishing up the due diligence on the project, uh, probably within the next, you know, nine, 10 business days or so and then bringing those elements back, bringing the findings back from the due diligence at the same time that we ask at the second reading of -- of the ordinance.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Thank you so much. Any questions?

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Yes. I have a question.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Mayor.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Madam Chair, and -- and maybe for the, um, legal staff. But why is -- why -- if they're dealing kind of similar with the same kind of project, this, that and the other, why is one an ordinance and the other one's a resolution? What determines that?

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SHERMAN:** The -- the comp plan amendment is set in ordinance.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Okay.

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SHERMAN:** Okay? So when that was originally adopted it was done through ordinance, so to amend it, you have to go through the ordinance. The budget is just a budget resolution. It -- it's your typical process of adopting a

budget. And now you're just amending that so it can be done through a resolution.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Okay? All right. We have --

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Madam Chair, I'm sorry.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** I'm sorry.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes. No, that's okay, Miss Pardo, please.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Okay. I was expecting a -- a presentation so you can tell the people at home where all of the money is coming from, which funds we're hitting, you know, instead of just explaining why we have an ordinance on first reading and a resolution. You know, that's what --

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SHERMAN:** Okay. I -- I mean, I --

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** -- I -- I think, you know, for \$6.6 million, I think we owe it to the public so --

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SHERMAN:** Okay.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** All right?

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SHERMAN:** And again, I can address that. Those -- those items were originally addressed when the -- when the comp plan and the capital budget were originally presented. Um, but I can go back and -- and do that.

Um, again, there -- there was 15 and a half million dollars included in the -- in the capital budget plan for the two projects. Uh, so all we're doing is we're taking those -- that \$15 million -- and again, I'll -- I'll itemize where that 15 and a half million dollars is coming from -- and moving that into one project.

The 15 and a half million dollars, there is actually \$2 million that's coming from, uh, an insurance proceeds from property that had been damaged and -- and the insurance proceeds; they had to replace it. The capital acquisition fund actually is coming \$9 million. That's the dollars that originally came from the whole establishment of the utility special district. The refuse fund, which is your -- your solid waste, your -- your trash collection is kicking in \$1.1 million.

Um, I'm sorry. Another -- actually, the capital acquisition fund, the 310 fund is actually kicking in \$10 million. It's in two parts. And then the stormwater fund, there's \$2.3 million that's coming in from that fund, because again, they're -- they're part of the public works and they'll be housed at the public works facility.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Mr. Lowe.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Mr. Sherman, um, these funds are the same exact funds that were going to be used for the police station that we've been planning to build for the last, I guess, six or seven years?

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SHERMAN:** Yes. Yes. I --

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** So it's -- it's -- it's not like, uh, we're swimming in a different pool. It's just the same monies but a different project?

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SHERMAN:** Same money, just -- just --

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Same monies.

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SHERMAN:** -- reappropriating it, right.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** That's right. And if we were doing the police station here, it would be the same monies coming from the same sources?

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SHERMAN:** Correct.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Thank you.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Um, Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Miss Pardo?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Yeah, I'll make my comments. I have a problem with using the stormwater management money. And I'll tell you why. In 2003 when I was just a resident/taxpayer/homeowner in the city, I participated in all of the workshops, all of the meetings, everything with the stormwater.

Since 2004, I believe, every homeowner and business owner in this city has been paying into this fund hoping that one day this \$21 million budget item would come to fruition and we would start focusing on the infrastructure in this city.

I went back to some files that I had and when this was sold to the City, this press release went out. And I want to read a little sentence. It says, "The capital projects that result will focus on eliminating problems in areas with failing drainage systems and on problems in areas that lack drainage systems."

There is nothing in here -- and then I went through the ordinances and I asked Miss Ryan to look at it, also, and you know, you could see her memo. And, um, the way I interpret your memo, you really don't know what the intention of the previous council was when they drafted this. The way I read it is all of this money was supposed to go into stormwater. It wasn't supposed to go into acquiring property to house other things.

Now, I'm sure you can turn around and say, Well, the stormwater is going to be over there. But after looking, I think we have 10 employees so you're taking a third -- all right -- a third of the money to purchase this land, is going into a third of -- well, the \$6.6 million. You're taking a third of it to -- a third of the stormwater funds to put into this project when you only have 10 employees that are going to benefit.

So I just question the percentage of it. You know, you're talking, like, 3 percent of that money would go -- or 3 percent of this acquired property would go towards stormwater. So I just have a -- I have a real problem with it. You drive around the city, you want to talk about, you know, aging infrastructure.

You know, drainage problems everywhere. And I can attest to it because I have the issue on my street. Well, all of the streets in my neighborhood. So, um, I heard Mr. Lowe saying, you know, we already approved this and this money was going toward the project.

Well, at the time I wasn't aware of, um, exactly what the stormwater was all about. But

after doing my research, I have a problem with it. You guys can find the money somewhere else. But to take it out of stormwater when we still have \$21 million in improvements that we need to make, I have a problem with it.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Mr. Lowe.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** If you look at it long term, this project is closer to being related to a storm water project --

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** No it's not.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** -- than the project that was, uh, planned to be right here on this very ground. You know, what's the difference? There was no, uh, uproar when we decided to put a police station here. And the -- and if you're going to claim the stormwater claim, you gotta claim it to this property, as well, 'cause it's apples and apples.

Now, in terms of long term, you have the canal that borders this property to the west that feeds into C17. C17 has been under-capacity for a very long time. So I mean, the -- the potential is -- lies there for us to combine the wastewater -- a wastewater plan, you know, as -- as a supplement to this project long term anyways. You know, because you know, you need more capacity in C17.

And all those canals, especially that main one on the west side, folds into C17. So I mean, if we -- if we want to -- I mean, if we want to relate it to storm water -- a storm water project, it's just that simple. I mean, we've already approved the master plan and it calls for some upgrades in our canal system. And that's just a matter of us incorporating that element to what we're trying to do in that particular area.

What we're trying to do in that particular area is, you know, introduce a catalyst to other opportunities right there in the, uh, central part of the city that has a dying industrial base and has resources in there that has the potential to feed everybody here in -- in -- in Riviera Beach and then also provide a green buffer between Federal Gardens and the industrial area.

There's nothing that exists right there now. But essentially, this starts to move to -- in my opinion, bring the Federal back in Federal Gardens and the Harmony back in Harmony Heights. You know, that's a beautiful area. And -- and focusing in on that area we -- you know, we can't stand to ignore it anymore. It's just vital.

But going back to the dollars and storm -- stormwater related, you know, we were gonna take money from stormwater or we were gonna move around funds to build a police station here right on the current grounds and there was no uproar, no argument, no -- no anything. That's -- and it just -- I -- I don't know. It's just -- I'm puzzled. You know, and I just -- that's my take on it.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Miss Pardo?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Yeah. Let me just say something. I'm not puzzled by it at all. Again, the taxpayers have been paying into this. Not just taxpayers. The users. The users of our utilities have been paying into this for the past eight years. I pay

\$4.50. I'm sure some people pay less, some people pay more.

But it was all because we were supposed to upgrade the -- our drainage systems throughout the city. Not just the canal. All right. You drive around this city. There's some very serious problems. And again, I don't think the intent was to take the money and buy property so you can, you know, house or build a new EOC and other, um -- other facilities. I think it was for infrastructure and that's it. And I -- I stand by it.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** I would like to just clarify one statement from, um, Mr. Lowe. The money, the \$2.3 million that's coming from, um, the stormwater system was not with the police building here.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** It was public works.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** It was with the public works facility.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Okay.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** On, um, the other avenue.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Same -- same -- same --

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** I just want to clarify that it's --

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** -- same principle, same thing.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** -- different location.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** But it's all involved in the five-year capital plan in which, you know, everybody was fine with it. It passed. And it's a good thing everything is on tape and on video and on record. You know, and if anybody cares to go back and research that, it's all very clear in what transcribed and what happened and who stood for what. You know?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Uh-huh. Absolutely. And how staff didn't --

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** And, um, things are -- you know, what's relevant then is relevant now. It just doesn't apply to stuff that, you know, you may not be in support of. It's still the same -- it's still the same situation. It's just wrapped in a different package. Thank you.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Miss Davis.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Um, Mr. Sherman, um, I'm reading this e-mail from Miss Ryan. You did your analysis and you see no reason why this -- these dollars cannot be used?

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SHERMAN:** No. Storm -- stormwater fees can pay for operations, administrative costs, which this all falls into that category.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh. Okay. And Miss Ryan, since you wrote it, I understand that you have no issues with it, either?

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** (No audible response).

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** That's what it says here.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** I don't think it says that.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** It doesn't say that.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Um, I defer to Finance on that issue. I said that I was unable to find any case law on this issue. And I -- I did not find anything.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay. That's good enough for me.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Okay.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. We have, um --

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** We have now approached the hour for public comments so what's your pleasure?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Finish this. We gotta finish this.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Well, we need to finish this. Once you get started I understand you have to complete it. And then you come back to public comments. That was a --

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- rule I got a few meetings ago. Okay.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Thank you. Uh, item 11, Bruce Guyton. And then after that, Bonnie Larson.

**BRUCE GUYTON:** Um, thank you, Madam Chair, Council people, Mayor, City Manager. My name is Bruce Guyton and I am a lifelong resident of Riviera Beach. And my comments are more general in regards to the project as a whole.

Um, we're going through a progressive process by which we must go through these stages to get to our final destination. And right now we're only trying to determine if that property would be feasible. I am waiting on the due diligence results to return. Um, and that would be the determinate factor for me whether we should move forward.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Right.

**BRUCE GUYTON:** And I don't think that we should stop the process until we actually have the results to make a definitive determination, i.e., the environmental studies and other issues that we need to know about before I think that we make the final decision to move forward.

So, um, we have been in our city in a stalemate for the last 30, 40 years. We really don't do big projects. Every time we try a project, opposition surface. We back off and we never get anything done. Our city look the same for the last 30, 40 years, and I think it's time for us to start making some changes.

Um, progress requires change. The City of West Palm Beach went through the same thing when they built their city center, when they attempted to move their library, move their City Hall, people rose up. They filed lawsuits. They said they were going to do a referendum. The mayor down there stood behind progress and she kept moving forward because she know that that would take her city to another level.

And I'm hoping that our leaders would have the same type of foresight to understand before we can progress, it requires some change. And this is the beginning of the change and not the end. And this is not to, um, minimize any of the concerns. Whatever the concerns are, we need to address them and don't dismiss them.

But I'm saying that I have not seen a deal-breaker. If there are -- are no threats to health, welfare and safety of our residents, if we're not taking a blood bath financially in buying the property, paying double what it costs, those are deal-breakers in my mind. And I haven't seen that yet. So until we get all of the studies back, I would hope that this process continue and, um, it is my hope, too, that the results are revealed before the final documents are signed. Thank you very much.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Mayor.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Let me just state a couple of things at this point. Um, I, the Mayor of Riviera Beach, am very much for progress. Very much for redevelopment but for when it's right, when it's sound and when the people buy into it. Having said that, based upon Mr. Guyton's own comments, um, there's a lack of due diligence here.

We have a deadline. It was supposed to have been two -- is there going to be another public meeting before this deadline? Are all these other concerns that Mr. Guyton, uh, raised, environmental study, transportation -- the, um -- the effect on the traffic study and the other studies. Um, we are under a very strict time -- we've only got a couple of weeks. And so far the -- the -- the greater question is why there haven't been any of these studies at this point.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Because it's a (inaudible).

**MAYOR MASTERS:** So it seems to me that there is a problem. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Thank you, Mayor. Uh, Bonnie Larson?

**BONNIE LARSON:** Bonnie Larson. At this late date, because the owner wants to sell by the end of December --

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** (Inaudible).

**BONNIE LARSON:** -- as Mr. McCray said, it's always the owners pushing us, pushing us. We're the ones with the money. We're the ones who have the right to do the due diligence before anything is done. It should not be a seller who tells Riviera Beach what to do.

I don't believe even a lot of people know in Riviera Beach that the plan is to move the fire station, the police station and City Hall. You had to look pretty far into the backup to find that City Hall move. Why are we moving the City Hall anyway? Why are we moving anything? We own property. If you want to build something new, increase the

size of the police department building. It is pretty bad but we own property right across the street from here.

Vacant property. Why do we need to buy more property? Put it right across the street so everything is centralized. No problem whatsoever. We don't need to buy property in the industrial area with two railroad tracks driving through it.

What other city do you know of that has their City Hall -- we should be the highlight of this city. What other city puts their highlight, their main buildings, out in the middle of an industrial area? I'm sure the industrial area people would like to have that for their protection. But there's one -- one business here and a couple acres over -- maybe five, six acres over, there's another business. Whatever.

We're here in the city. We need protection for our residents. We live within 10 feet of each other. We need protection right here. Don't put this out in the industrial area. Why are we wasting all this money? As Miss Pardo mentioned about the -- the drainage, why are we fixing drainage on a property we don't even own? Why would we spend money doing that?

If they had it here or across the street, they would spend the money right there. So the money's going to be spent. Why not spend it on property that we already own? Why not improve our property rather than buying something out there? We have talked about that drainage for years and years. You know I have brought pictures to this City Hall. We hired consultants to do a study on the drainage.

We have water running down our streets standing for weeks at a time. It runs up into our driveway these days. That never happened years ago. We have a huge drainage problem and we need to fix it. Don't spend our money that we -- like she said, that we pay into every month for drainage. Don't spend it on buying another property which we do not need.

The forum, it was very unclear. The advertisement in the paper said "Acquisition of property." You hired a moderator. You knew there was gonna be a problem. It was kind of a crazy forum. We couldn't address the council. Miss Pardo and Mr. Lowe were the only two people who had the decency -- I'm gonna say decency -- to sit up on that board. We -- they didn't get asked any questions because the moderator said, "I'm gonna take your questions. I'm gonna address them to the appropriate person." It was Ask Miss Jones Night. She was the only one to whom the questions were addressed. So no, it didn't answer our questions.

Um, it's -- you -- no input from the residents really. We talked and not many people wanted it there. That should really be a referendum. Do you want to move our City Hall and all our facilities out into an industrial area? Ask the people. Listen to the people once in a while. Don't listen to the people who want to sell you property. Listen to your residents. Keep our police and everything right here among the residents where we need it the most. Thank you.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Madam Chair?

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Madam Chair?

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Mr. Lowe?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Um, Miss Larson keeps referencing out in the industrial area. Do you know that you could walk five minutes and be in that -- out in that industrial area that you're talking about? So it's not out anywhere. It's right here in the midst of us. It's not a remote area. It's -- it's surrounded by neighborhoods that need servicing, that need protection, that need to be revitalized. Old neighborhoods, you know, that have never realized their full potential.

So this isn't out there like it's on the western edge of -- of the city. This is right across the tracks. It's in walking distance. So I just wanted to make that point so you -- everybody would have a correct frame of reference in terms of what we're talking about. We're not moving any facilities out to nowhere. It's just right across the tracks, if that does happen. So I just, you know, wanted to give everybody a proper frame of reference. Thank you.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** I also just want to make sure with, you know -- however your feelings are about the project, whether you support it or you don't, I just want to make sure that some facts go out.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** The City Hall is not being moved there. And that keeps going out for some reason. And everybody that stops me in Southern Kitchen to ask me about that, I have to continue to tell them that it is -- the City Hall is not being moved. Miss Larson, no disrespect. But the City Hall --

**BONNIE LARSON:** I read it in the (inaudible).

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Okay. Regardless of what you may have seen, I'm stating on the record in front of all of my colleagues, the City Hall is not being moved there. So please stop stating that. The City Hall is not being moved. The fire department that is on this campus is not being moved. So whether you -- whether you disagree with it or not, that's what I'm here to -- that's what I want to hear. But I do want to make sure that the correct facts go out about this project.

I'm -- that's what we're here for. That's what we're here for. If you want to ask us questions, you don't have to wait till a meeting. You can call us. You can -- you can ask us now. You can ask us whenever. All of those questions will be answered. It's not that anybody's not trying to answer any questions. We're here. We're doing a due diligence point here.

The -- the other thing of it is, is the property that you were referencing to across the street, well, we kind of use that for our Parks and Rec. You know, so I -- I'm just saying it -- it -- it's a lot of things that -- that are thrown out there. And I'm not lobbying for the project one way or the other. What I'm basically saying is a lot of ideas are thrown out there. We're trying to work with the existing monies that we have now.

If there's issues with that, that is what we have these meetings for. There's a lot of thought process about what could go and what we should do and how we should do it.

But there's not any revenue streams that are being added to those processes.

If there is something -- and I listened to you very clearly -- if there is something I want to hear it. If you got something, some information that we don't necessarily have, I want to hear it. But I do want to hear correct and accurate, you know, statements, if you can. That's all I wanted to put on the record.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes. Yes, Miss Pardo's next.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** All right. Okay. I have a question for the city manager. Um, Miss Manager, Mr. Thomas made a comment that the fire station is staying here on the campus; is that correct?

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Yes, ma'am.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Okay. So the, um, fire station that you, you know, mention throughout this document will -- so we'll be building a new fire station for station 2?

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Correct.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Okay. And, um -- and then what is happening with the property for -- at station 2?

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** No decision has been made on that. We haven't had it appraised.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Okay. So do we know how much the --

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** It's close enough to the Parks --

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** -- fire station going into the warehouse district is going to cost us, what the build-out for that's going to be?

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** That's a part of the due diligence that's taking place right now.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** All right.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, um, Mr. Mayor?

**MAYOR MASTERS:** A couple things. Um, we -- we -- we heard speaker mention West Palm Beach. Well, let's look at West Palm Beach. They built the City Hall. Where did they build it?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Downtown.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Where did they build the new police station?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Downtown.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Where did they -- where did they build the library?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Downtown.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** All where? None of these three were built --

**AUDIENCE:** In a junkyard.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Yeah. I'll let you figure it out. You're right. Over there. They were all built right -- right where they were. I don't know any police station, main police station, fire department, library, any of these things, that's in a warehouse district or part of a warehouse, whatever you want to call it. That's -- that's -- it's a principle here.

The principle for me -- and I think Miss Larson is right. Any time you're going to be moving something that's been here -- I mean, I've only been here since 1987 and I'm -- I'm sure, um --

**AUDIENCE:** (Inaudible) yourself. All right?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** What?

**AUDIENCE:** (Inaudible).

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Shh.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Please.

**AUDIENCE:** I'm tired of this.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Order.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Pastor McCray would know how long they -- these entities have been here. But they've been here a long time. And I think that this is not a decision for five people to make. These five people, my colleagues, we don't own the police department. We don't own the fire department. We don't own, um, the public works. The people own it. And if it's going to be moved from the central location where it has served and served well for all of these years, then I think the right thing to do is to let the people decide.

It doesn't matter whether this is -- it's obvious to me that it's probably going to pass. But even after it passes, referendum can still say, Is this what we want? Do we want our police department moved? No. Do we want the, um -- whatever else from this main campus moved? No. The people will decide it. And the people will win. Trust me. The people will win. Because everyone I have spoken to -- I have not spoken to perhaps maybe one or two people -- and they've spoken here -- who want to see anything moved.

Now, I've heard, you know -- and almost every time I hear it it's something different. When it was explained to me, it was said to me that, uh, number 1 and number 2 would exchange. The fire station 1 would go there and 2 would go here and that everything here would be torn down eventually and we will have a five-story or four-story or six-story facility on Broadway. There would be a library. There would be a Starbucks. There would be the City Hall. We would have legislative.

And then I heard, Well, maybe not so. Maybe it's going to be here. So due diligence is on the table. But the principle ought to be should the people decide whether or not they want what they paid for moved to another location. I'm -- this is where I am. I mean, for people who say, Well, the Mayor's leading a -- I'm not leading a movement. 'Cause if I was leading a movement, trust me, it would be packed tonight.

I'm not leading anything. Not making any calls. Haven't made any calls. I'm just saying

this is my position. It was my position from day one when this was brought up. It has not changed. For me and my house, I feel that the people of Riviera Beach should make a decision and the council should hear what the people -- if this is a great thing the people would say, Do it. Move everything. Great. We want to go to the warehouse district, or, We want it over there.

And then you bring the people along with you and you don't have a problem. But if the people don't want it, they don't want it. Simple as that. So whether you pass it or not, I'm hearing that there will be a referendum and that referendum will ask one simple question: The people of Riviera Beach, do you want to move any of your services at this Bobbie Brooks Municipal Complex? Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** You're welcome, Mr. Mayor. Uh, next we'll have Sandy Foland and Herman McCray. Miss Foland and then Mr. McCray.

**SANDY FOLAND:** Sandy Foland, uh, business owner, 900 13<sup>th</sup> Street in Riviera Beach and property owner. Um, I would like all of you just to visualize -- if you would go on Google -- uh, the boundaries of Riviera Beach. On a general basis, if you go north, it is Silver Beach Road. If you go west, it's Haverhill Road. If you go south, it's approximately 40<sup>th</sup>. And then you go east to Singer Island. If you put a pen in the middle, you'll come to about 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh.

**SANDY FOLAND:** Sounds to me, with 15<sup>th</sup> Street and directly west is all residential. Yes, there are some industrial and there's some businesses. There are multi-million dollar businesses that care about this community, care about the growth of it, the security of it, and living with the residents and we add up the dollars. I personally pay about \$80,000 in taxes. Of some of that, a piece of it does go to Riviera Beach. I'm proud to be the cheerleader of the industrial and the businesses in this city. I'm proud to represent Riviera Beach and I'm proud to support my council.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Thank you, Miss Foland. Mr. McCray?

**HERMAN McCRAY:** Herman McCray, 2315 Avenue S, Riviera Beach. Apparently a lot of people don't know where 15<sup>th</sup> Street is. 15<sup>th</sup> Street and a lot of that property coming off of Blue Heron belongs to -- to, I guess, UPS and a lot of other places. You got Celetron out there.

And if you think that that's a residential area, the only residential area close to 15<sup>th</sup> Street where we're talking about this building, is Federal Gardens and west of Federal Gardens. Now, after that then you get to 13<sup>th</sup> Street. And on the other side of 13<sup>th</sup> Street are some small businesses. You don't get back into the residential area till you get back around 10<sup>th</sup> Street coming off of Old Dixie.

I don't know where the five-minute walk that's -- that, uh, Shelby takes to get to 15<sup>th</sup> Street from Blue Heron or from here. I don't know about that.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** I didn't say 15<sup>th</sup> Street so don't add anything to your conversation.

**HERMAN McCRAY:** But -- well --

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Get it right, please.

**HERMAN McCRAY:** -- Shelby --

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Please.

**HERMAN McCRAY:** -- Shelby, where -- I know where it is.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Well, then, get it (inaudible) right.

**HERMAN McCRAY:** I know exactly -- and it's not a five-minute walk.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Mr. McCray, I know how you go on. Just get (inaudible).

**HERMAN McCRAY:** Well, Shelby --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Shelby. Mr. Lowe. Mr. Lowe.

**HERMAN McCRAY:** -- Shelby, it's not a five-minute walk.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Mr. Lowe and --

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** It's a five-minute walk from City Hall right over here to --

**HERMAN McCRAY:** Well, you -- you running, Shelby. You taking a little jog.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Let him finish his public comment.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Yeah. I (inaudible).

**HERMAN McCRAY:** But nevertheless, I'm -- I'm sorry, Billie.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Let him finish, Mr. Lowe.

**HERMAN McCRAY:** Billie, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to engage in that 'cause I already know where -- where it is. And if anybody else living there, they know where it is.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** And I know where it is.

**HERMAN McCRAY:** Um, Shelby, you come out of Federal Gardens, and I know where you come from. But don't --

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Okay, then.

**HERMAN McCRAY:** -- but don't -- don't -- don't do that to me, Shelby, because I know.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Don't do that to us.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Mr. Lowe, (inaudible).

**HERMAN McCRAY:** First of all, I was glad to hear y'all say y'all move around money. You can move money around. You know, right here this City Hall used to be a driving range for the recreation department. Before they put City Hall over here it was on Avenue E. But I cannot believe that you would take -- and phase 4 of this municipal complex thing that y'all talking about talks about moving City Hall, Cedrick. Phase 4. I don't know if you read the whole thing.

But, uh, I think it's a bad move. I don't know why you think it's a good move when you got all this other land. You got people can't work on Fridays because of the fact you ain't got no money but yet you say you can move money around, but yet you wanna go spend money to buy a piece of property that you really don't need and the people don't want it.

So what I'm saying is that you say you have money earmarked for certain things. And if

you had the money earmarked to improve the drainage -- and we all know the drainage is somewhat tough in Riviera Beach at times when it rains -- then why bother that money? Why limit yourself?

Use what you got. Maximize the minimum. The lady just told you about the boundaries of Riviera Beach. Maximize your minimum.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Thank you, Mr. McCray. Uh, Richard Wester?

**RICHARD WESTER:** Good evening, everybody.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Good evening, sir.

**RICHARD WESTER:** My name is Richard Wester, retired fire chief of the City of Riviera Beach. I worked here 27 years and once, uh, somebody tried to get me to make a recommendation to close the fire station over on Singer Island. I told them, If you want it closed, you close it. And it's still there till this day.

We got waterfront property here, most expensive property you can find, waterfront property. Next, industrial with rails on it. That's what the City's over there trying to shut down now. Water -- uh, municipal government trying to go in there and shut down an industrial area.

I heard Shelby say he want to get some -- get over there and get in there. All those rails in there for people to get in there -- you know, industry. You and I had that conversation we -- before Phil Lewis died. Me and you talked about it.

Um, the tax rolls. We done lost about 10, 12, 15 million dollars off the tax rolls. Choice piece of property over there paying taxes. The City want to go over there and shut it down. Ain't gonna pay -- nobody gonna pay no taxes on it. The City ain't gonna pay no taxes. Gonna lose money right there.

We done lost what, 13 million? I don't know how many million we done lost. Same people talking about that, we're trying to put that junkyard over there. Taxpayers had to come and raise hell to get that shut down.

Police department and the library. Harry Simmons came from New York, built this complex. We asked Harry, Harry, why are you putting the police department back here? Why don't you put it out front where -- the library should go back there. Harry -- Harry Simmons told us, said, That's what the City wants. That's why the police department right in the back right now. Somebody come up want to go to the police department, gotta go through there, try to get in there. Ain't nobody in there. You get busted in the head right in there.

Library. That's where the library should have been. We tried to tell them then. Look what we got. Library sitting right here where it should have been back there.

And in the planner, only place in the whole United States, you gonna find somebody moving a police and fire department into industrial area, is Riviera Beach. Dumbass Riviera Beach. That's the only one gonna do it.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Next we have Gerald Ward. And after that, Miss Duncombe, Norma Duncombe.

**GERALD WARD:** Gerald Ward, 31 W. 20<sup>th</sup> Street. Well, obviously --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Mr. Ward, excuse me. Would you like to speak to both 11 and 12? We have two cards for you.

**GERALD WARD:** Well, I -- I have two cards so do I get six minutes?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** We'll give you six minutes, Mr. Ward.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** He has a double card.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** You have two cards so you can speak three minutes on however you want to do it.

**GERALD WARD:** Well, you -- you obviously have separate issues, uh, because you're -- you're mixing apples and oranges religiously. All right. Let's -- we used half my minute already. Let's go back to the, uh, master plan and the stormwater fund.

Uh, Mrs. Ryan, who just now left, uh, did clearly set Mr. Lowe correctly that we didn't ever use stormwater money for the \$11 million of police department improvements. The master plan is yay thick and I guess I should have brought it for the new Finance Director because you've got to go back and modify the master plan before you do this deal, also.

Because there is no way that we have committed -- and we adopted that -- to spend this -- this kind of money in the way that you now are doing for half of the 6 or, uh -- not -- maybe not half -- of the 6.6 million.

I would tell you it's a bad deal from the standpoint of paying \$6.6 million for a property that sold to these folks for \$5.1 million. That's \$100,000 a month they're making by just holding it since July of last year. Um, we -- we then turn around and let them keep the property for another 16 months or so and make 1.12 million, which we get nothing for. And it's still unclear as to how much tax revenue we're going to use when we take it off the rolls as government property.

Appraisals. The appraisal does indicate that having a piece of property split by the only cross-connection -- and somebody made that point very well -- I think it was Mr. Lowe -- at the, um, Tri-Rail session that we had a few minutes ago. But splitting -- having a -- a City Hall property split is really wrong. And Mr. Thomas, you need to read the City's fact sheet that has been touted at that, uh, operation but Phase 2, Phase 3, Phase 4 are all dealing in a new City Hall on this property.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** No, not that property.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** No.

**GERALD WARD:** So there is something wrong with the concept of -- of that. Now, later on, people have talked about -- since I got six minutes -- uh, the -- the fact that, uh, we may build a new City Hall at the old City Hall block on Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. But none of this seems to be tied down in any logical manner.

Now, get to the end. By the way, how many of you now have gone through these appraisals in detail? So you really agree with the way your made-as-instructed MIA Appraisals were done. Uh, you need to do that because you're the financial responsible persons for making these decisions.

Lastly is the comp plan. We haven't addressed it. Last meeting, Mrs. Ryan clearly said,

Yes, we've got to go back and modify the comp plan, the comprehensive plan, which is your bible for how you're to do every decision you make there, uh, for land use purposes. Tonight you started the process because I raised it on capital element. But you haven't even begun to start the comprehensive plan process to allow us to abandon this building, the fire department moves. All of them are on -- on arterial highways, state roads. Uh, we did this with considerable thought in the 90 years that this city's been designed.

And we really do have a good city. But just in a snap decision from August to now to move it to the western part of a major Lewis Terminal industrial area doesn't make a lot of sense. And I don't think that you will find, when you go through the comp plan process -- uh, and it's not in your due diligence. It ought to be as a condition for closing, that you have completed the comprehensive plan process for land use.

Uh, you had \$6.4 million proposed now to spend for improvements; whereas, it was 15 and a half million because you owned the police department and -- ground and you owned the public works ground. So there is something wrong in that particular calculation when you've given away the -- the 6.6 million.

And I think you need to go back and -- and get some pro forma sheets here and do not go forward tonight until you get something that is much more substantive.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Madam Chair, I have a question for the speaker.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Thank you, um --

**MAYOR MASTERS:** I have a question for the speaker, please.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Mr. Ward, would you come back, please.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Mr. Ward?

**MAYOR MASTERS:** How long have you known about this plan?

**GERALD WARD:** I found out about it about a week before the last council meeting which was the 7<sup>th</sup> of November. So the first of November.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** And you've had -- you've had plenty of opportunities to talk to people about this?

**GERALD WARD:** So far I've not found anybody that seems to be in favor of it because they want to see their -- their government when they go to the post office. They want to be on a travel way.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** On Blue Heron, right.

**GERALD WARD:** Blue Heron is the --

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Let me ask you this.

**GERALD WARD:** -- (inaudible).

**MAYOR MASTERS:** So all the people that you've talked to -- and you're a man of great honesty and integrity -- you have not talked to one person that supports the move to the warehouse?

**GERALD WARD:** No. I -- I think that Mr. Guyton supports it. I've talked to him.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** No. My -- my final question. My final question.

**GERALD WARD:** Mr. Lowe.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Well, we --

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** That's two people.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Okay. Other than the -- the two. But my -- my -- my question is this, and I'm finished, Madam Chair. Would you support a referendum for this question to be on the ballot?

**GERALD WARD:** We have, in our charter, the fact that you can't make certain real estate deals in this town because the citizens wanted to have the ability to vote on such real estate transactions. So this is an equivalent, and I would almost tell you in 2008, if -- if the Charter Review Advisory Committee had thought about having major reductions in fire departments and -- and, uh, city halls and move, uh, we would have proposed a (inaudible).

**MAYOR MASTERS:** So you support a referendum? Thank you.

**GERALD WARD:** They're required.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yeah. Yes. Yes, Mr. Thomas.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Miss Duncombe, you're next.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Um, the -- that was the second individual that asked me to refer back to this fact sheet in less than a week. I understand what's in the fact sheet. What we're discussing that's going over in between 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Street is a police department, a public works and a fire department. That is all I'm trying to make clear.

The City Hall, as I stated several times tonight already, is not going over there. As a matter of fact, it's going to be several years before the City Hall does anything. So I don't mind you being against it. And listen, I want to hear the individuals that are against it. I want to hear that. I also want to hear the individuals that are for it.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** That's right.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** I have an issue that the solid majority on this is not coming to this mike to speak. I want to hear those individuals, wherever you may be, if you support this project, come and see it. I'm not gonna debate with the Mayor or anybody else over this 'cause you can't have a referendum after the fact if you already bought the property. What sense does that make? You know? That's what this whole due diligence period is about.

I also know, Mr. Ward, that you're not even for the -- the beach renourishment to try to help stop the -- the erosion where you live. So you being against a project is not the hero -- I didn't ask for -- I didn't ask for any dialogue like the Mayor -- for -- for you -- for you going back and forth, you know, with this saying it's not a good project or it is a good project, I want to hear it. You're a resident. It's important to me. But just because you oppose it does not mean it is the wrong thing to do.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** I want to hear everyone. And I want to hear everyone respectfully. And all I'm asking is whatever side you're on, just please state what you feel about the accurate facts. That is all. Then we'll make a decision. We have that time to make the decision. And if we need to do several more public meetings, then -- then that's what we're here to do. That -- that is all I wanted to say. Just make sure that the facts are accurate. That's all.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** I just had one question. Mr. -- Mr. -- Mr. Ward, how many people did you talk to? I -- I -- just give me a ballpark figure.

**GERALD WARD:** Based upon going to the post office and so forth, I suppose I talked to probably about 40, 50 --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay. Forty people. We've got how many -- how many people voted last time? Close to 3,000?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Three thousand.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** So what -- all I'm saying is, you know, we had people here, what, two years ago, who didn't want a car wash on Blue Heron Boulevard. But it's there. And it's being used by some of the same people who didn't want it.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** (Inaudible) main thoroughfare.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** So, I mean, you know, I'm -- I'm with Mr. Thomas, that -- that I want to hear what people think. And it's okay to be against something. But, you know, I don't believe that, you know, 40 people speak for the majority of the residents who vote, who live in Riviera Beach. Um, so, you know, if -- if you guys are out there and you need to speak to us and tell us what you think, please come on and let us hear you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh. Miss Duncombe, thank you for your patience. You -- you're next.

**NORMA DUNCOMBE:** Uh, Norma Duncombe, and -- and I -- I'm not really sure whether I should speak. Um, first of all, I do think it's important -- people pay taxes and they have a right to decide what they want or do not want.

**AUDIENCE:** That's right.

**NORMA DUNCOMBE:** Let me just touch on the community that you mentioned that needs to be upgraded. Let's not confuse the communities being upgraded with what we do about our public services. The communities do need to be upgraded. They're historic communities and we do need to do something about those communities. So let's make sure we take care of that. I want to make sure.

I am all for progress. I am always for progress. But let it be something that will benefit

the citizens of this city. Number one, talking about the stormwaters. You only have to get caught out there -- and my little old car got stuck on Silver Beach Road in a river early in the morning. So we do need that money for that. Let me just make sure that's clear.

Okay. The next thing is this. If you move the services over on the area away from here, there are many citizens who do not drive. Do you have bus services over in there? Anybody can --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Not yet.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Congress.

**NORMA DUNCOMBE:** Huh?

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Not yet. No, not yet.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Congress.

**NORMA DUNCOMBE:** Not yet?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** On -- not there but on Congress, two blocks away.

**NORMA DUNCOMBE:** But I'm -- oh.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** No, we're working on it.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yeah.

**NORMA DUNCOMBE:** It's only two blocks away. Because there are a lot of people who do not drive. I think, you know, when you start deciding to do things and -- and as I said before, I'm all for progress. I have never seen a city that did not put their city complex with the whatever departments on the main drag. And here you have property that -- yes, build a new building if that's what you want. But why go and spend \$6 million for something when you can build and go up five stories or whatever number of stories you have to go up? Do that.

You know, I think we need to have a whole lot more conversation about this before you make this decision to put 6,000 -- \$6 million in a property and you have no idea as to how much it would cost to do what you want to do. And I -- I think if money is limited, then you have to spend it wisely.

And right now it does not appear that this is what we're trying to do. And I think, you know, we can yell and fuss at one another -- well, not me. But yelling and fussing at people who have concerns will not solve the problem. Maybe if we sit down -- and that meeting we had the other night with the moderator, maybe it should have been a meeting where we just came in and everybody could talk back and forth, come up with ideas, and maybe something else would have come -- well, it might have been a better meeting in terms of having an open -- having an open discussion.

And you know, if somebody comes up with a better idea, don't be afraid to say, Well, let's move in another direction. That's not going to hurt us.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Time us up, Miss Duncombe.

**NORMA DUNCOMBE:** Oh, okay. I thought I had six minutes, too.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. No, you only put in one card. Okay. That's the end

of, um, the comments on --

**WARRIE LEONARD:** There is another card up there.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** What's the name on the card?

**WARRIE LEONARD:** National Village Timber Pines Homeowners' Association.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** (Inaudible) card.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Oh. Oh, could we have put it under public comments? It didn't have a number on there, Miss Leonard. You want to speak now? Come on.

**WARRIE LEONARD:** Good afternoon, Mayor and Council. My name is Warrie Leonard. I'm President of the National Village --

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Good afternoon.

**WARRIE LEONARD:** -- Timber Pine Homeowners' Association. We attended the meeting concerning the removing of certain facilities to the new complex that you want to build.

After listening to everything that was given to us, we held our monthly meeting. I will now let Miss Franke Lavergne read what came out of our meeting.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**FRANKE LAVERGNE:** Good evening -- rather, good night.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Good evening.

**FRANKE LAVERGNE:** To our distinguished -- this letter was written on December 4<sup>th</sup>. I'm Franke Lavergne, treasurer of the Timber Pines -- uh, National Village/Timber Pine Homeowners' Association. "Mayor Thomas Master and Council members, 600 W. Blue Heron Boulevard, Riviera Beach, Florida. Distinguished Mayor and Council members, the National Village and Timber Pine Homeowners' Association held our annual monthly meeting on November the 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Several items were on the agenda but one item we are bringing to your attention tonight is the moving of the current city facilities.

"The city facilities is now located on the main pathway. It is accessible and safe for all city residents. In the presentation last month the City -- the City --" excuse me -- "stated several concerns if the land was purchased. The following are major concerns shared not only by the City but also by the association and other residents. The title search, one, is incomplete. FEC Railway -- Railway will continue to have 24-hours access to the property. The environmental study has not been completed. The City Comprehensive Plan will have to be reworked. The property is located in an industrial area (safety concern) and is not on the main street.

"Six, the City will not be able to take over the property for 18 months even after it is purchased this month. The City will be liable from the purchase date. Our questions to you are why are you allowing the seller to dictate terms to you? Two, why is there such a rush to buy additional land during a struggling economy?

"In closing, we respectfully request a response to our questions and an in-depth look by the City to address residents' concerns. We are a community striving to make Riviera Beach the best place to live, work and play. Sincerely, the National -- sincerely, the National Village and Timber Pine Homeowners' Association. It is a community moving

forward." Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Thank you so much.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Thank you.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** You want to hand me the letter for the record?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Um, what was your -- Miss Jones?

**FRANKE LAVERGNE:** My --

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** No. I just want to say if she wanted to give us the letter for the record.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** If you want to give us the letter for the record? How many people were at your meeting?

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Yeah, that's what I want to know.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** I just would like to know how many people were at the meeting. How many belong to the association and how many were at the meeting?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Is there a card on there, Miss Jones?

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Huh?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Is there a card?

**WARRIE LEONARD:** We have 120 homes out there. That night we had about 25 people there.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**WARRIE LEONARD:** And regardless of whether they were not at the meeting, I have spoke to several of them as the president and I have -- they've come to my home and walk in the neighborhood. So --

**MAYOR MASTERS:** I have -- I'm sorry.

**WARRIE LEONARD:** -- we have discussions. So far I have not -- I have not -- I don't know about anybody else --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**WARRIE LEONARD:** -- found anyone that is for this plan. All I ask is that you think about it, think about the concerns of the citizen. And my -- my main concern is you don't let anybody rush you with your money.

**AUDIENCE:** Amen.

**WARRIE LEONARD:** That's our money. If he want to sell it, let him sell it in our due time. Do it in our due diligence --

**AUDIENCE:** Amen.

**WARRIE LEONARD:** -- not theirs.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Madam Chair, just a question.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Thank you.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Miss Lorna -- Leonard, I think you -- you cleared my, um -- my

concern. So even at the meeting, there was not one person that spoke in favor of moving to the warehouse?

**WARRIE LEONARD:** No, sir.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Not one?

**WARRIE LEONARD:** Not one.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** (Inaudible).

**WARRIE LEONARD:** And the ones that -- maybe that was for it, they did not voice their opinion like you said. Thank you.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Thank you.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Miss Pardo?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** I think the city manager should tell, um, the residents about the, um -- the discussion that either she had or, um, the interim city manager, asking -- when she asked for the extension.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Miss Davis.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** I'll be happy to address that, if you don't mind.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** No, I don't.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Um, actually, um, it became a real issue because I did ask some questions as an elected official. After the last meeting I went to Mrs. Jones and asked if, um, they had considered asking for an extension.

And her response was no, they hadn't but they would. So, um, the answer when I -- I called her back, I think it was a couple days later to see if she had done -- done so. And, um, came to find out that they wanted more money for, uh, the property if it was extended past December 31<sup>st</sup>.

But my concern or my disappointment, rather, came about because, uh, a letter was written indicating or insinuating that somehow, um, because the rest of the council hadn't been notified that I asked that question, that somehow staff were -- were crooks or trying to hide something.

And it just so happens that the persons mentioned happened to be black. So I take great offense about that. And, um, I can -- I can go back to when, um, other persons have been chairs of this city. I also felt that, you know, a lot of things were going on that I didn't know about. And I was that lone dissenting vote. But I never, ever put pen to paper to suggest that my staff were somehow, uh, being secretive and trying to circumvent council's authority or that they were doing something criminally -- criminally - - criminally wrong.

So, um -- and it can be easily, um, dealt with, I think. It -- it -- since it has been made an issue, if anybody on this council who -- we all have the same powers and authority -- if anybody on this council wants to, uh, go to the city manager or to our city attorney, who

our -- who are our only two employees, and ask questions or give a directive, um, and want to know about it, then it should apply to every person up here. And I don't have a problem with it. But I know for a fact that every single person on this dais has had conversations with either the city manager -- city attorney or the city manager where that has not been relayed to the rest of us.

Okay? There were trips taken that I didn't know anything about. Um, and, you know, uh, quite a few other things. But you know, it's -- that's not an issue for me. Because if -- the time when I can't ask staff a question is a time that I don't need to be here. None of us need to be here. So I hope I've addressed it thoroughly.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** If there'll be no further comments --

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes?

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Was there -- was there an (inaudible)?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Okay. So Miss Jones, can you tell us what that figure was, how much they came back with?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** 400,000.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Excuse me?

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** If -- if -- if we went up to six months extension, it would have been \$400,000.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** \$400,000 more?

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** For not -- for not closing for an additional six months.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** So he wants to charge us another \$400,000 for six months if we didn't seal the deal by the time (inaudible)?

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** No. Well, what we're doing in this -- now you're talking about a real estate deal.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Right.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Like, if you buying a house. If you're putting down a contract and if you ask somebody to take their property off the market for an extended period of time --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** -- you've got to pay for that. We were at -- an extension would mean, Don't go sell this property to anyone else. Still give us the first rights. And that does cost you and so that was what it's for. It was for them, the extension of time to close so that they would not put the money back on the property -- on -- on the -- (inaudible) sale.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** So my -- my -- my question is, Madam Chair -- I'm not trying to disrespect the Chair but I'm --

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Yes. Yes, Mr. Mayor.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** -- just -- just asking the manager. So my -- my question is this.

He would not even extend 30 days courtesy?

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Once I heard the \$400,000, it was a done deal for me and I wasn't going to bring that forward so I didn't go back.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** And just to add, I believe --

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- believe also that, with these tax laws, that if you -- we're looking at capital gains taxes?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** And persons now, who they're trying to, of course, do what they can before the end of the year, by the end of the year. And I would assume that that had to be factored in with any additional, um, monies tied to that -- to that acquisition. So, um, anyway, you've made your point. Everybody's made their point and it's --

**MAYOR MASTERS:** I have a question for the lawyer, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay, Mr. Mayor.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Thank you. Madam Chair, um -- I mean, Madam Attorney, I want to ask you on the record as it relates -- cause I know I've mentioned it two or three times. Other people have said, uh -- have mentioned it, as well, as relates to a question relating to the -- any referendum before or after the fact. Now, let me -- just listen to me.

I have pretty much -- pretty good knowledge of referendums 'cause we've done -- I personally have done two and have been very -- three, and have been very successful with -- with them. So I think I have a pretty working knowledge of what we can put on the ballot and what you cannot. But I need you to help me out just to make sure that I'm still clear.

One is, is it true that you cannot put a question on a referendum ballot that deals with capital? Deals with money. That cannot be a referendum question, right? You cannot do that. Is that true?

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** I think that's correct. You can't -- anything dealing with the budget, monetary -- monetary issues, you can't give to the public to deal with. That's accurate. Yes.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Okay. Now, if this was passed by my distinguished colleagues and it went to Tallahassee as far as the comp plan -- and let's just say that the -- the comp plan just said no, basically. We're just not gonna allow the change -- the changes. At that point we would be stuck with a building that we would have to sell or do something with if they came back with that; is that true?

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** That is correct. If you --

**MAYOR MASTERS:** All right.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Oh, okay.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Now -- I'm sorry.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** No.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Is that correct?

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Right. A part of this is -- even though we are buying the property, we still have to go through the comprehensive plan amendment process to change the land use. The land use is currently industrial. It needs to be changed to community facilities to be in compliance with our comp plan and, um, our zoning regulations.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** And if that doesn't happen as far as moving to the warehouse, then we would be stuck with a building that we purchase, property we purchase; is that correct?

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** That is correct. You would not be able to move your community facilities there.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** All right.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** You would have to do something else, which is -- which would be compatible with the use that's already there.

**AUDIENCE:** Junkyard.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** So my question is, um, either before or after the fact, let's just suppose this council decides to -- to spend the money and -- and you know, I -- I'm just for a new police station here. And let me just be real clear. You know, I am not for the warehouse and -- and building it out or building it up or building it any -- building it any kind of way. I am for -- I believe that our officers deserve, as we have said over and over, a new police station as we have spent thousands of dollars, if not hundreds of thousands of dollars for a new police station on this property. That's what I'm for.

It's like, are you for a new car or a used car? I'm for a new one. And I'm for a new one here, right here. But my question is this. Let's get past that. If this council decides, knowing that a referendum is -- will be blooming, decides to pass it anyway and anyhow, as we have known to do in the past, a referendum question can still be placed on the ballot as to whether or not the people of this city want to move any of the facilities that's on this property. Am I correct?

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** You are correct. Um, the sale of the property would go through but if a referendum was placed on the ballot regarding, um, the movement of the facilities, that referendum would probably take place before the City actually moved. I think that if the City actually moved, um, you would be mooted out and wouldn't be able to do that.

But if a referendum occurred -- and I don't know if it's enough time. I'd have to defer to the city clerk on enough time for a referendum to occur in March, but, um --

**MAYOR MASTERS:** I believe it is enough time.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Okay.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Madam Clerk?

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** In any event, um, because the City would not move into the facility for another 18 months, a referendum could certainly happen before then. It -- it

could stop the movement.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Right.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Just like with --

**MAYOR MASTERS:** And we would be stuck with a -- either way, we'll be stuck with a building.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** If it passed.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Find another use for it.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** That is correct.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Right?

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** That is correct.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Or sell it.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** That is correct.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** A building that nobody else will buy but us at this point. And no, I'm not saying that to you. But, um, Madam Clerk, if I may ask, um, is there -- or have we passed a deadline -- let me ask that -- for any referendum question to be placed on the ballot in March.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** You have not passed the deadline.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Thank you, Madam Clerk. Thank you, Madam Attorney.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Madam Chair?

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Mr. Lowe and then, uh, Mr. Thomas.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** I -- I'm just trying to figure out how all of this referendum stuff gets in the air over a capital program issue that was discussed -- I mean, we talk about the capital budget every year and in -- just in September or October we talked about the capital budget.

So as far as, uh, public access and public knowledge and public know-how, that's where -- that's where it all starts. This is a capital move. This isn't, uh, a 50-year lease, taking the beach and all that stuff. It's not -- it's not one of those moves. You represented -- you have a representative form of government, not direct democracy.

In a direct democracy, the citizens vote on every single issue. We -- we decided not to do that. We didn't want the citizens -- we didn't -- the citizens decided not to do that. They appointed five people to come up here and represent the masses. And that's how -- that's how it is.

All we've done was just make a decision. The timing of the decision, because it's a real estate, uh, transaction, is, you know -- it has its ups and downs. But that exists in a -- in a common real estate deal. But as it relates to providing a, uh, facility for the City, a place where we can give the best services, it -- it could be anywhere in the town if you ask me. Main Street could be anywhere we want Main Street to be.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** All of this stuff is -- you know, it's just how things were or -- or how things are. But we're trying to deal with how things are going to be. Now, that industrial area has sat dormant for 50 years. Fifty years the investment was made in terms of what Riviera Beach was going to be and in terms of -- for the County and as it relates to port business, as it relates to transportation, as it relates to industrial and -- and, uh, economic vitality for this area. Somewhere it got lost 50 years ago.

And I haven't heard anybody come within the last 50 years to tell me, What do we do about the middle of the city? Nobody's come up with it. Nobody. Since I've been here, nobody said anything. Now, 50 years later, when we have some movement, some idea, some vision in terms of, you know, where we want to place buildings, then we want to go out for a referendum and -- and just make a big issue out of this. That's -- if you ask why people don't want to come to Riviera Beach, it's because of this particular entanglement. 'Cause that's all this is, is an entanglement.

If you're gonna have a vision, you know, you have to take all things into account. You just can't go by how you feel and what you know. You gotta get it from all different angles. Right south of this property is the FEC. FEC owns that property. Right now it's just a -- a laydown yard where they deposited, uh, aggregates -- aggregate material and stuff like that. That was right there in your back yard. But they're not going to invest in improving Riviera Beach until we invest.

But there's no reason why that station right there, which is in a -- within a stone's throw from MLK, couldn't be a mini Tri-Rail station and bring life to that -- bring life to that area. Those are the type of things that we have to initiate because by past history, we know that no one's going to look out for Riviera Beach. No one. No one on the regional level, no one on the state level, unless we show some, you know -- that we're progressing and that we want to move forward.

**RICHARD WESTER:** Not even the city council.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Yeah, right. We -- we saw your e-mail, Mr. Weston [sic], the way you called all four of us racist.

**RICHARD WESTER:** Where your -- where your house at? Where your property?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Yeah. Where -- okay. See you later.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yeah, let's just --

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** But anyway, that's -- I mean, that's the story.

**RICHARD WESTER:** (Inaudible) machine.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Okay. See you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** You're welcome.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Mr. Thomas?

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Yes, ma'am. Um, my issue, uh, and the comment that I

said about the referendum -- and I'm directing this to the Mayor -- was not that it could not be done. It can be done. But we would already have purchased the property if we've done it after this particular time. And that's all I was saying about that.

The other thing that I'm asking is, Mayor, I mean, it's no secret. Everybody knows if you want a referendum, it's going to happen. I -- I get that. And whether you don't want it or however, it's going to happen. My only issue is this. And I'm saying this publicly because this is not something I haven't said to you privately.

At some point we have to think about what's in the betterment of the City and not a pending election, not, you know, how many of whatever can -- people can come out to the polls or we -- it cannot be driven by a political motive.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Absolutely.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** If you have some issues about it, that's what we're here to do. We're -- we're here to figure those things out. You know, because this political season is --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** -- twisting and winding, it's -- it's -- it's a problem for me that my city that I love, that I serve, is going to go through an issue over something like this.

If there could be a referendum done, which we -- if this was the issue, then maybe it should have been done, um, on the November ballot, I -- I would have been all for that. That -- that's not -- that's not the issue there. The issue here is if we continue to do this, the City will continue to keep tripping over itself in trying to move this. I just told the regional -- the Tri-Rail people, you know, where we're trying to go to. But an hour after -- after that, we're sitting here and everybody's trying to just point their -- their position. The best thing that I've heard tonight was from the Timber Pines and the -- the, um -- the National Village.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** National Village.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** 'Cause we actually heard someone --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** -- state something. No one's upset about what Timber Pines did and whether it was one person or all 125. They came as a group. The president showed up and she stated their point and I appreciate that.

Because you did that, I'm not going to wait for anybody to come in. I'm going to call every association that we have in this city. And I'm going to call, and I'm going to ask for a meeting so everybody can give that instead of elected officials trying to position and jockey whichever way they want this to go. This should not become a political football that's going to set our city back. And -- and -- and that is an issue.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Absolutely.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Costly.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** And -- and -- and that -- that is an issue. So I'm asking my colleagues to let's please just try to get the information that we need, not beat up on

the city manager or the public works, the engineers, the city -- city manager, the attorney. Let's just get the information. Let's just get it out to the individuals. And if the citizens truly don't want it, then we won't.

But if the citizens truly want it, then we will. Now, there's another trust factor to this. When we run, we ask you to trust our decision-making process on this. And if you don't agree with our decision-making process, we're always here for you to say, Listen. You're my representative. I don't think that you should -- should do that. But the decision is going to be yours but this is what we think.

And we should, as elected officials, say, We hear our constituency. Maybe this is not the best thing. Or maybe this is the best thing. And that is all that I'm looking to do and I think, from the Mayor all the way to District 5, I believe everybody just wants to do what's in the best interest of the City. But if we continue to do this, the closer this gets to March --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** -- the more this is going to become, you know, a problem. Let's not do that. Give us time to get that information. Now, I'm going to commit to whatever I'm doing, rearranging it so I can hear the other, uh, associations like what Miss Leonard did. I'm going to do that. And I'll be happy to bring that back to this board to say, I will set it up. I'll get all that done and hear it.

But all I'm asking is let's stop throwing these anthems and these -- these messages out trying to cause a -- a -- a huge political disturbance. Let's just handle business. And if we handle business and everybody's back sitting up here, God is good. If -- if we're not, then we have to move on. But we should be doing what's in the best interest of the City and not worrying about March. And that's what I'm doing. That's all I wanted to say. And that was just to my colleagues.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Amen, brother.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Thank you.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Thank you. Thank you. Thank you so much.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Madam Chair? Thank you. To my colleague, distinguished colleague and my friend and, um, everyone knows I'm -- I'm supporting Cedrick Thomas a hundred percent. I told him and the public so it doesn't change.

But we do have difference of opinion up here. And let me just say this for the record. I don't need this issue to win an election, period. I mean, I wasn't here even when this issue came up. I'm -- it -- I don't need another issue. I'm not looking for another issue to win a race. I'm gonna run on my record. The record, Stonybrook, the record for jobs, the record against crime, and we can go on and on. It has nothing to do with this issue.

But for me -- and I keep saying it -- for me and my house -- Joshua said it better, "For me and my house --" I know it's incorrect grammar but he said, "For me and my house,

we shall serve the Lord." Having said that, for me to be an elected official, I always want to be connected with the people.

Government to me is always at its best when it's for the people, by the people and of the people. Now, I know it is -- and I do believe that the manager and those that assisted her, intentions were great. They felt this was a good deal. And they felt that it was in the best interest of the, uh, City. I do believe that.

I don't believe that anyone in that committee felt differently. But I don't think -- what I -- what I do think is they did not take into full consideration my bottom line. Does the people want it? Either they want it or they don't. Now, I was happy to hear Councilman Thomas says -- say that whatever way, mechanism he has, to get a feel for the people, 'cause I'm going to always be on the side of the people.

Now, if I have something good to offer, then the same people that put us here are the same people that we can go back to and exert leadership as I did with the pull up the pants, as I did with the curfew and other things, and sell it to the people and let the people sanction it.

Now, this is my suggestion. And no one has to agree with me. If it's important to my colleagues to execute the will of the people -- this is 2012. We just had a Presidential election. Polls were taken and the polls told us exactly where -- what the issues were and where the candidates stood, etc. Okay. Do what you gotta do.

Take a poll. Find out what the people feel. And I guarantee you that the people of this city, the majority of the people of this city don't want it. The vote will be no. That's the best way. 2012, all the technology that we have, Gallup Poll, invest in it. Find out what the people want. If they want it, I want it. And I'll support it a hundred percent. If they don't want it, I don't want it. Period. And will not support it.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** I want to do what the people elected me to do, which -- which is to carry out what they want and not what I want. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** You're welcome. Um, I think we should be postured now to go forward with voting on 11.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Right.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Roll call, please.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Pro-Tem Pardo?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** No.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Chair Brooks?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Lowe?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Thomas?

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Davis?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** That vote passed with Chair Pro-Tem Pardo dissenting.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Move on to number 12 on the regular. And after that, then we will have -- we will go to, um, public comments. 'Cause we're taking both of these.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Okay. 12, Resolution 2012-12, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Riviera Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, approve an amendment of the City's adopted five-year capital projects plan for fiscal year 2012/'13 to 2016/'17, authorizing a transfer of funds budgeted in the stormwater management utility, liability insurance, refuse and capital acquisition funds for the construction of new police and public works building to be reallocated and used to purchase real property located at 1418 W. 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Riviera Beach, and providing an effective date.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** So moved.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Second.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. We've already had a presentation, uh, by our Finance Director on this. Uh, I don't have a -- any -- any, um, discussion on this? Roll call, please.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Chair Brooks?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Pro-Tem Pardo?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** No.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Lowe?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Thomas?

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Davis?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** That vote passed with Pardo dissenting.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Um, given that we have passed this, um, we are going to need to have a special city council meeting, and I hope that your calendars are open for December the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>. That will be for our second read and to get a due diligence report. So if you would have your, um, legislative aides look at your calendars for December the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** (Inaudible).

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** I'm sorry?

**CITY CLERK WARD:** (Inaudible).

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. And then we -- you can inform --

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Yeah. The ordinance can't be heard at a special meeting.

They have to be heard at regular meetings.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Well, it'll be -- we'll make it a regular meeting. We can call for -- you can call for a special meeting.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** You can do two -- you can do two -- you can always do two meetings.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** But we agreed to have only one meeting per month.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** The City's ordinance -- the City's charter says that ordinances can only be heard at regular city council meetings.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Would that not be the Wednesday of a regular council meeting?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** We eliminated, um, the second meeting. So the special -- the -- the -- it was my understanding that, um, the second reading of the ordinance was going to be heard on January 5<sup>th</sup>. This is the first time I'm hearing that it -- we want it to be heard before January 5<sup>th</sup>.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Well, okay. It was the part of our due diligence and that's due on the 21<sup>st</sup>?

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** (Inaudible).

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** I do not believe that -- because we, um, decided to make the second meeting of every month, um --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Workshops?

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** -- workshops, special meetings, I don't recall, um, exactly what it says. But I do not believe that we said it would be a regular -- it could be a regular city council meeting.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** And it didn't say it couldn't.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Right.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** It didn't say it couldn't. (Inaudible).

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Right.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** So that's, I mean --

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** The 5<sup>th</sup> is fine.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Research it, please.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** The 5<sup>th</sup> is fine.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Research it.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** We'll -- right. I don't -- I don't have --

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Let's don't have another issue about that.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** That's right. Because you can always call a regular meeting for a meeting.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Okay.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Yeah.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** You know, it will be a meeting where you -- it is a voting meeting. We've been having special workshops that did not require a vote.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Yeah.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** But you cannot -- but you cannot have the ordinance read for second and final reading at a special meeting.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Any other than a regular meeting.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** And also, it has sufficient time to be advertised.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Advertised. Okay.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Uh-huh.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** All right.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Is it the 2<sup>nd</sup> or the 5<sup>th</sup>? That's what I'm asking.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Okay. Can I --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. I'm sorry.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** -- Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** (Inaudible).

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Order, please. Um, Miss Jones?

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Um, I would -- as the, um, city attorney is doing her investigation on this, having the second read of the ordinance on January the 5<sup>th</sup> is fine.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** However, I would like to have, if possible --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Wait a minute. January 5<sup>th</sup> is a Saturday so it's January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Well, 2<sup>nd</sup>. I'm sorry.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Yes.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** I was going --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Right.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** -- no, it's the 2<sup>nd</sup>. But I would like for Council to entertain a special workshop or session on the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** So moved.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** 'Cause we really need to bring you the due diligence report.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes. Okay. That's been moved and seconded so, um, roll call?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Um, Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** And what we're voting on now is to have the special meeting.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Are we making, um -- are -- are we voting to make two weeks from now a regular meeting or --

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Special meeting.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** -- we can vote to make it a regular meeting, too.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** You can vote to make it a regular meeting.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** We got enough time to advertise it, as well.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Yes.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** So I'd rather entertain that motion than make -- I --

**CITY CLERK WARD:** It could be -- it could be a regular one.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Amend it.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Yeah.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** I'll -- yeah, I'll ask for an amendment to that ordinance -- I meant to that resolution. Thank you.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** I'll -- I'll second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** We're ready for the vote.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** All right.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** No, I -- I got some questions.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** See, this -- this is my issue. This is my issue. What's wrong with the attorney entertaining to make sure it's okay so that this whole spirit of, Uh-oh, why they can't wait to see if the attorney -- why -- why do we have to keep casting these things about? I believe it's a good project but why don't we just do it where people are comfortable with it?

Let her just see versus saying we're -- we're changing it to a regular meeting or -- I just think that that adds a different dynamic to it that just does not allow for trust for the issue. Now, I'm supporting it. I'm out there; I'm supporting it. I just want us to do it so people do not continue to add something to it saying that somebody's trying to do something wrong.

And I'm not trying to be disrespectful to anybody. I just want to keep it out there in the open. You know, I just don't think that we should do it that way, to vote to make a meeting that we voted a little while ago that wouldn't be -- if we have to advertise it, then advertise it for whatever days we have to have it and then do it. I just don't want to

break --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** That's all I'm saying.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Your point is well taken, Cedrick.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** I agree.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Yeah. That's all I'm saying.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** It is. It's well taken.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** I agree.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** 'Cause there's enough undue --

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Yeah.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- suspicion as it is and I guess for the life of me, I just can't understand why people would think that there's some reason that any of us would benefit one, you know -- that there's something to be suspicious about.

**AUDIENCE:** (Inaudible).

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** I can't wrap my arm around it. I really can't.

**AUDIENCE:** (Inaudible).

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** I'm sorry?

**AUDIENCE:** The taxes.

**AUDIENCE:** (Inaudible).

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Well, anyway. Um, it's just that I guess it's just hard to fathom why anyone would want to be suspicious about something. And here we are trying to look out for our personnel. It's more a facilities issue than it is a sales issue. We -- we've just outgrown ourselves. We know we need new facilities and, uh, it happened that there was a great opportunity here to maximize our dollars. And I just -- it's just maybe -- I -- it's just hard for me to imagine that anyone who would think businesslike wouldn't see this is a great opportunity. Because we're certainly not trying to ever do anything to harm the citizens. And that just -- that's not what we're here for. I mean, we're giving our time. Nothing we would do to try to hurt our citizens ever. And it's just really hard for me to grasp here.

Okay. So we are going to then just, um, wait until January and -- and have the regular meeting. But we will have a special meeting in December. This month. Either the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>. And you look at your calendars and please let us know tomorrow if you can. Okay. Moving on now. Public comments.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Right.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** And I do apologize for those of you who have come hopeful of being able to get on earlier. But we had very important matters to discuss and we really couldn't rush through it.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** You did a good job, though, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** You let everybody speak and that's all that's important.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** You have to. You have to. If at all possible, be at peace with everyone.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** That's right.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Where -- where are our public comment cards? Oh, right here.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** You have them.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Oh, we've got quite a few.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Uh-huh.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Mr. Guyton and then Bonnie Larson. Followed by Herring and Israel [sic].

**BRUCE GUYTON:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Again, my name is Bruce Guyton. Um, I would just like to clarify a few things, a couple of things very quickly.

Um, I have been working in the public sector for close to 20 years now. Served two terms on the Riviera Beach City Council. Um, I've been active in politics for over 25 years. And, um, I am astounded by the fact that we seem to think that somehow our elected officials cannot make difficult decisions.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** (Inaudible).

**BRUCE GUYTON:** I'm only speaking for me. I did not vote for elected officials to put the burden back on me when there's a difficult decision. I -- that -- I don't have that desire to have my hand in everything. As a voter, taxpayer, I want the elected officials to make the difficult decisions and step up to the plate. Vote it up or down. It doesn't matter to me. But don't use this as a political maneuver and it was an insult to my intelligence for somebody to suggest up there this is not politics. I'm looking out for the people. That was ridiculous.

Every election cycle, people try to identify issue to get people angry. A referendum divides our community, period. It's a divisive move. People who've been involved in this for years like myself understand that.

Also, it does not matter who initiates a referendum. I'm the chair of the Committee for a Better Riviera Beach, and I would be recommending to our committee that we come out strong against any referendum. Now, if -- if the elected officials don't want to make the decision or these difficult decisions, I would suggest that they don't run. I mean, because that's part of your responsibility, to make difficult decisions.

So it is my hope that the city council continue to move forward, make your decisions, but the threat of a referendum does not move me one iota. And let me say the last thing, most people that come to public meetings, they come to complain. And I've sat in that seat where Carrie sit because I was a deputy village clerk for the Village of Royal Palm Beach for over four years. I sat at their meetings.

Most people come to complain. People who have, um, positive things to say, you know, they're trying pay their bills. They're -- they're thinking about taking care of their families

and they tell me, I'm not coming over here and getting involved in that mayhem, Bruce. You know, so to suggest that because they're not here, that somehow they are against it, that is ridiculous. So it is my hope that the council continue to move forward and I support you fully.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Thank you. Miss Larson and after Miss Larson, Bruce Herring.

**BONNIE LARSON:** Bonnie Larson. No two people think alike. So it is our right and our obligation, I think, as concerned citizens to question what the council is doing. If you want to be a follower and just say, Whatever you guys want to do, well, that's your thing. But I think to make the City a better place, we need to question things and we need to -- to know why certain things are happening and -- and, uh -- and to have a say in it. We -- we want to be heard, also.

There's been a growing trend, I've noticed, among the council, and I really don't appreciate it. And that is to try and, uh -- and discount what residents are saying. And it's done after we get up here and speak so we don't -- we don't get to retaliate. I want you to know because everybody else who stops me on the street knows this. I don't ever come to this podium without knowing what I'm talking about.

If you tell me something, I'm going to look it up. I'm going to read it. The information I read about City Hall moving, I didn't say it was going to move tomorrow but it's deep in the backup. Maybe you didn't read it, some of you. But I read it in the backup, that City Hall would eventually move. That information came from Riviera Beach. I must believe that Riviera Beach put out that information and it's the truth. That I must believe because it came from Riviera Beach.

Um, Mr. Pittman -- I have several discussions here -- Mr. Pittman came tonight to renew his contract. It would be nice if we had -- could have an update, um, on what he's doing. I asked one time if that could be on the Web somewhere so we would know month to month, like, what's going on with our lobbyist. You know, he came tonight and said, "Thank you for renewing my contract," but we really don't know. And maybe you get to hear but we would like to know, also, what our lobbyists are doing.

Um, Miss Pardo -- she's left now? -- uh, she talked about manhole covers. Yeah, it's right to talk about it now because once they resurface -- here she is -- once they resurface, then it's too late. Those manhole covers are awful. We've all had alignment problems with our cars. So it is the time to do it. And for them to say, Well, there's a lip, there's a problem, no. Make them do it right. We're redoing it. Now is the time to fix it.

Um, we need to check our watering system. We're supposed to -- I don't know if we're still on water restrictions or what. But the other night I was driving on Blue Heron and the sprinklers throughout Riviera Beach on City property were -- were going. They were running at 10:00 -- 10:30 at night. They were watering all of Blue Heron. So I don't -- we're not supposed to be watering at night anyway. Um, you'll rot the roots, if you know anything about landscaping. All right?

This might be funny to you but anyway we don't need to be watering at night, and we need to adjust those sprinklers so that we water the grass, not Blue Heron Boulevard.

Um, we talked about -- there was a discussion tonight about the -- the budget was done

in September/October and the comment was made that no one said anything about this property. Yeah. Because we didn't know about this property in September/October. It just came up now. Again, we're trying to compensate the -- the seller on the property. It's our money. Like -- like Mayor Masters said, if we get that property and we're stuck with it, you know, who's gonna -- who's gonna be rushing to buy that property when it's got two railroad tracks running through the middle? Who's gonna be rushing to buy that? Let your deadline go. If you can't change the comp plan, there we are stuck with that property. So let's do our due diligence. You can't -- you don't -- you won't know. You won't have a contamination report by the 17<sup>th</sup> of December. That can't happen. It's too short a time. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Mr. Herring?

**BRUCE HERRING:** Good evening.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Good evening.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Evening.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Good evening.

**BRUCE HERRING:** My name is Bruce Herring. I live at 1372 W. 33<sup>rd</sup> Street in Riviera Beach. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Council, Mayor, for the wonderful job that y'all have been doing. Now, we've heard a lot of people -- now, I've heard a lot of things in the background -- and it sounds like y'all are not doing what we elected y'all to do. But the thing is, as Bruce Guyton said, that you have to make the tough decisions. And when you have made that tough decision, you have to go forward, because it's important that our city develop.

Now, I think I have lived in the city as long as most people in here. I'm 61 years old. I grew up and was educated in the Riviera Beach school system. You know, and I went to college and then I came back here in order to work. And I also volunteered on several boards, Planning & Zoning Board for eight years with, uh, Gerald Ward. Then I was on the Housing Authority Board for four years. And now I -- I sit on the Advisory Council for, uh, the Executive Director of the CRA.

So now, what you all are doing is developing not just part of the city; but you're developing the rest of the city. All of the city. Now, we haven't made any great and bold moves as far as development in the midtown area, which y'all would say you could turn west of the railroad tracks. Now you all are doing those things. Now you all are developing. We have challenged you all in order to do something and now you're doing it. You're making this city better for everybody.

Now, I heard some people say that why are you putting it on the west side? And I say why not? I live on the west side. And a lot of other people live on the west side. And there are a lot of businesses on the west side. So why not? Because it is a central location. It is a location that can be utilized for everybody. And it is walking distance all over this city. You know, these -- these are things that we all must really consider.

And we must be polite to each other. We can't come up here and just criticize and criticize without having some good solutions. Now, we all might not agree that this is the greatest thing. But if you have some other solutions that make it even better, than you ought to say it. But we all have come to the table, and as we sit at this table, talk

about the good and positive things. Because Channel 18 is watched by not only Riviera Beach residents but by a lot of citizens. And if we talk so bad about our council people and our mayor, then what do you think other people are going to do? So we should quit doing that and we should work together in order to make this a great, great city which I think, I believe and I know that it is. And as I said before, you all are doing a great job. And when I say "you all" I mean everybody. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Thank you.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Thank you.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Mr. Israel?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Go ahead.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Is Ahman here?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Go ahead. Clap some more. We need a little more -- yeah. I -- I know it's hard.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Richard Wester?

**RICHARD WESTER:** Yeah.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Oh, there's Ahman. Okay.

**AUDIENCE:** Do I have a card up there?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** I haven't finished.

**AUDIENCE:** (Inaudible).

**RICHARD WESTER:** Richard Wester, I'll hold my tongue this time. But somebody asked me about, uh, my e-mails. I sent some e-mails out. And, uh, maybe a lot of people didn't get -- get them, but I sent them to a lot of people. And my -- one of my e-mails said was try to get Miss Pardo some help up there, get a couple of white people up there to show these black folks how to run this city. That's what I said.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Yeah, right.

**RICHARD WESTER:** That's what I said. That's what I said, Mr. Lowe.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** I know.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** It's okay. Mr. Lowe, let him talk.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** You ought to be embarrassed.

**RICHARD WESTER:** You should be embarrassed.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** No.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** That's okay. That's okay.

**RICHARD WESTER:** Um, but I -- I came here to talk about, uh -- everybody talking about, uh, you know -- I don't know whether you all know Mr. Masalati [phonetic] or not but he went to jail about some property. That's why a lot of people are thinking about this here, about this property and all of that.

But we had a city dump here. I was a little kid. I used to watch trucks from Kelsey City - oh, I'm a 67-year resident here so I've been here a long time. But Kelsey City used to come down there on 10<sup>th</sup> Street over there on -- in about the 9 or -- 9 or 1000 block on 10<sup>th</sup> Street. That was the dump. Right there in the middle of the city. Then they moved it to where Cisco is out there now. That was the dump.

Now, then in Palm -- I done talked about this several times before. Palm Beach County, when they wanted to put a dump somewhere, where'd they put it? West of Riviera Beach. I wonder why they didn't put it up there west of Tequesta somewhere. But we got people sitting up in here worried about all kinds of things. He's up there raising sand and all that. And, uh -- I'll get it -- and, uh, out west of us out there, we got jammed in there because the city council was arguing and raising sand and everything and couldn't -- can't go no further than, uh -- who said Haverhill? That's where it is. Because of all this foolishness right here. And it wasn't the taxpayers out here. It was the city council up there. Worrying about find Bill Wilkins and all of that and all kinds of stuff. That's why we can't go no further west than we can go.

And we know about all those railroad tracks over there. They go through the property. I talked about that before. They go right through that property. They go right to that building on the north of that property. Right across 15<sup>th</sup> Street. But if you think I'm lying, look at the meeting. It says on there, Oh, they don't go through the property. And I went on there and looked at it.

So I had a lot to say about that and, uh, I still stand behind that 'cause, Miss Pardo, we're gonna try to see if we can't get you some help up there. That's -- that's my commitment.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Mr. Israel? Thank you, Mr. Wester.

**RICHARD WESTER:** Excuse me?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** I said thank you.

**RICHARD WESTER:** Oh. Oh, yeah.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Homey. Hey, this is America. We can say what we feel. Okay.

**AHMAN ISRAELI:** Good evening, Council.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Good evening.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Evening.

**AHMAN ISRAELI:** I always thought Uncle Ruckus on Boondocks was just a -- just a, uh -- a cartoon. But I see it's really a reality.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Thank -- thank you.

**AHMAN ISRAELI:** Boondocks, Uncle Ruckus. You need to see that. I've heard some people say that the City is moving the police department, public works, emergency operations center and fire department to an industrial area as if industrial is some bad word.

Industrial simply means in short having many highly developed industries, business activity, trade and commerce, which equates to jobs and opportunity. For the City to

create this multi-use facility is a very good move.

This area is referred to as the Lewis Terminal. It was proposed to be the nation's best industrial area. The entrance to this area is one mile from the Port of Palm Beach. It has access to two rails. It has access to, uh, the main highways. Anything you want to distribute around the world you can do it from Lewis Terminal.

Again, it is a good move to move in this area. I've talked to 73 people in reference to this project. Fifty-nine says that it's a good move. Nine says that it's not. And 15, it doesn't matter.

The City has allotted \$15 million for the police department, public works, a total of 78,000 square feet. Now the City has an opportunity to acquire property that can house not only two facilities but four facilities, police department, fire department, emergency operations center, public works, for less money, saving the City 2.5 million.

Now, what is better? 15 million, 78,000 square feet for a police department and public works building, or save the City 2.5 million, 122,000 square feet, 44,000 square feet more and having four facilities, public works, emergency operations center, fire department and public works [sic]. I, too, say that the city council, you are elected to make these decisions and I support this decision. And in terms of a referendum, please.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Thank you. Mr. McCray and Norma Duncombe.

**HERMAN McCRAY:** Herman McCray, 2315 Avenue S, Riviera Beach. You know, I've been in this town a long time. I've seen a lot of council people come and go. And it just seem like the more things change, the more they remain the same. I've heard people talk about referendums. People who were involved in referendums talking about how they're against them now. But you know, it's like you were elected to do a job. And it's a tough job. It's a different job sitting up there looking out as it is sitting down here looking up. Been there myself. I sat on that same council, swiveled in them seats. But I had no desire to be a councilperson.

But the fact is that when you look at this town with all this great potential -- I told a friend of mine the other day, Donald Wilson. He and I, we talk quite a bit. Went to school together, best of friends. Talk almost every day. That he, Michael Brown, Eddie Rogers was the worst council ever been in this town because they had the most potential to know. They wouldn't ever move no number 1 highway. We knew it. They knew it. You knew it.

But you know, you gotta have a -- a vision. I went to the CRA meeting the other night and I asked the question, What is the vision? What is the correlation between Avenue E and U.S. number 1? Beyond Delray, number 1 is a one-way street. And to me the vision would be here to make U.S. 1 coming through Riviera Beach a one-way street, invest some of this same money that y'all say y'all can move around on Avenue E, make it a loop street. Get some parking for the businesses that you do have on -- on U.S. number 1. Maybe some angle parking, whatever it is. And give them people some of that money to do some facelifting to try to attract people.

We had a bowling alley. We had a theater. The first mall in Palm Beach County was the International Bazaar. So -- and, uh, we had a drive-in theater. And what I'm saying

is we seem to be going backwards instead of going forward.

We don't arrest -- I mean, we arrest people but we carry them down to the County. So what do we need with a whole new jail? All we need is a proper stop-off place to get somebody in there, book them and carry them on down to the jail. But you know, I can understand everybody wanting something new. But if the City Hall is leaking or your house is leaking, are you going to purchase a new house or are you going to fix the roof on the house? Because the money's there, the people that want all these things, hell, they didn't put it there. That's the taxpayers' money. We need to be more considerate of how we do things.

You know, and I heard people say people come over here and they criticize. Well, they do and that's their right. But I believe that there are people that come here also and offer solutions. It -- it -- it is our right as a citizen to be able to come over here and tell you what we think. Now, this two-minute thing or three-minute thing, I was put in jail in 1968 because we couldn't even talk in the City Hall.

What was good then may not be good for now. I mean, people change every day. Things change. But people are still the most important thing God ever made on this earth. And we don't give them no consideration. I heard the council tonight talking about how many people you talked to. Do you know there's some 20 to 25,000 voters here in Riviera Beach? Now, how many have y'all talked to to get the -- your approval for what you want to do?

What I'm saying is what's goose for the gander -- uh, for the goose is good for the gander. We need to stop being asinine in a lot of ways and try to work together, I guess across the lines as they try to do in Washington. But the same confusion as here. We don't consider the people.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Mr. McCray, please (inaudible).

**HERMAN McCRAY:** I understand. Billie, listen. I asked to get on the agenda. Y'all wouldn't let me on the agenda. I wanted to do it the right way. Because I needed time to say what I needed to say because I don't come over here that often. And I make it my business not to come because -- for what? I had two friends that said, "Herman," say, "why go over there?" And my question was, "Why not go and let people know how you feel or -- and what you think sometime?" Because it could be worse. Could be better; could be worse. Could make a difference if people would listen. Instead of worrying about how much time the person is talking, hear what the substance is. Y'all were elected by the people for the people. You know? And you need to listen at people regardless. You need to make -- maybe we ought to have a complaint night. Where everybody want to say something, let them come over here and listen at a thousand people. That'll be all right.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Mr. McCray, you will have to (inaudible) --

**HERMAN McCRAY:** But I -- I -- Billie, you're not listening. But that's all right. And that's your problem.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** We'll have -- we're gonna have to call a (inaudible).

**HERMAN McCRAY:** That is the problem. No, I -- I want to talk to everybody.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** We're just gonna have to call a recess now because --

**HERMAN McCRAY:** Well, call your recess.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- 'cause everybody's kind of getting out of hand.

**HERMAN McCRAY:** Billie, y'all got out of hand.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Well, okay.

**HERMAN McCRAY:** I mean, y'all -- y'all just want to buy some property and --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Herman. Herman.

**HERMAN McCRAY:** -- overrode the people about \$6 million.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Herman.

**HERMAN McCRAY:** And if you bought the property, you still got to build the building. So that mean that's even more.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Mr. McCray, we've listened. Thank you so much.

**HERMAN McCRAY:** Don't thank me.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Please. I am.

**HERMAN McCRAY:** I'm not pleased with that.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. You can tell us how you feel. You've done it.

**HERMAN McCRAY:** I'm -- I'm gonna tell you. Every meeting I'm gonna be here.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** All right, Herm.

**HERMAN McCRAY:** (Inaudible).

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Thank you all for your patience. Okay. Where are we now? Is that -- oh, let me see. Whoopsy. Miss -- well, Dr. Wynn. Dr. Wynn?

**DR. WYNN:** Dr. Wynn, Riviera Beach, Florida. And Mr. Mayor and the Council, good night.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** We can barely hear you, hon. Put your -- yeah.

**DR. WYNN:** As I said to the Mayor and the Council, good night. I wanted to ask this question, say this, that, um, it's time for the city workers to get off furlough. They're on the furlough for so long. And the City's not broke that they can't put people back to work for five days a week. Administration staff is on salary. The other people who work like the police officers, the fire -- fire department, the workers in all departments, it's time to take them off this furlough and give them their five day due. Okay? And I'm asking the Council to look into it.

The other thing I want to talk about is that I spoke to a council person -- I will not say who it is -- about the situation over there. I -- I -- I -- it doesn't bother me if you go over there. It really doesn't. It doesn't bother me. If -- if you want to go on the west side, it doesn't really bother me. You know? Maybe this time we have something on the west side but it doesn't bother me anyway.

What I want to talk about and I'm asking the council to listen to me and what I'm saying is true, that one of the reasons that this person who's selling the property over there

wanted to do this deal in December, in this month, so he can evade paying the taxes for January. I was told that nothing don't go like that because I've been to the tax office over by 45<sup>th</sup> Street. Anybody want to go there over by 45<sup>th</sup> Street by Cracker Barrel. And I was told that I -- I am correct. You see, if they pay -- if -- if the City get it now, the taxes, the City -- the City will pay the taxes. You see, he don't pay the taxes for 2013. And that's a fact.

Another thing again, we select the councils to look over for us, to take care of us. And that money that -- that is going to spend to pay the taxes for 2013, let him pay that taxes. Shelby, you're -- you're the mortgage -- you know. And -- and I think Billie might -- might do something like the same.

The thing is that let him -- the deal is -- is okay. Let him pay the taxes. Sign it in January so he can pay the county tax and the state tax or whatever tax it is. And let -- and -- and move on. But if the City decided to keep on -- want everything to be done this month, they're trying to evade this man from property -- this man, whoever he is, from paying taxes. And I know you (inaudible) hearts and saying that's true, but you go over to the -- to the tax department. And they will clear it up for you. And yes, I'm the one -- I'm black and I did talk to Judy. Yes, I'm black. Yes, and I say that there is a mongoose in the -- in the bush and a -- and a skunk. I did say that. And I -- but it's true.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** I wasn't referring to you.

**DR. WYNN:** Well, if you wasn't referring to me, I did say it to you.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** I wasn't referring to you.

**DR. WYNN:** Well, okay. That's all accepted. But I -- I say that. And please, just let -- do the deal but let him pay -- sign the paper in January. In January. Not right now. We're not stupid.

Miss -- Miss -- Madam Jones, she's quick as a -- as a -- quick as a rock. Quick. She's smart. She know her stuff. Mr. Danny know -- know his stuff. But it's the council pushing all these things. The council doing it. You can't blame Danny and -- and Madam Jones, the city manager. The council want to close this deal. And matter of fact, it's not fair because we put you up in here. I know quite a few people up there. I campaign for you all and put you up there. And March is coming. I'm telling you, a lot of you -- some of you are going to stay and some of you are going to go. And I --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** All right. Thank you, Dr. Wynn. Um, yes, Miss --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh, I -- I have to respond to this.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- Miss Davis.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Um --

**DR. WYNN:** God bless you all. Let's -- thank you after that.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** -- Council -- thank you, um, Miss Wynn. Um, Council did not push this deal. Uh, it was brought to us by staff, Mrs. Jones and, um, Deputy Manager Jones.

**DR. WYNN:** (Inaudible).

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** And I have to clear up one thing that, um, Mrs. Wynn -- Dr. Wynn said. Um, she did contact me to tell me about this tax situation. And I told her that in a real estate transaction, um, the place that she's talking about is the Department of Revenue that collects sales tax.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Sales tax, yeah.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** This is dealing in property tax. Um, and I told her as long as a person is in a piece of property, until that property is sold, they are responsible for the property taxes up until they sign the closing documents.

And then whoever is the buyer is responsible from that point on. So it has absolutely nothing to do with sales tax. And the City, if this sale goes through -- the City will collect all of its property taxes. Just wanted to clarify that.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Um, Miss Duncombe. Okay. Mr. Ward?

**GERALD WARD:** Good evening again. Gerald Ward, 31 W. 20<sup>th</sup> Street. Item 4 was a consent item which I put a card in but I just want you all to know that 1976, we bought that property, Bicentennial Park, with, uh, federal money and got a whole raft of conditions. And it's so interesting that you stick things like this on consent but you now agreed again in this multi-page document to continue those restrictions so that there needs to be a -- a further analysis. And -- and the \$200,000 grant that you've agreed to go with is for relatively innocuous structures, picnic tables and things of that nature, kayaks launch.

Number two, tomorrow, 4:00. Your wonderful Port of Palm Beach, a subservient independent district within this city, is holding a tariff public hearing. And they are somewhat like some of you: wanting to tie up and say, It's our way or the highway. But it's -- it's incumbent that, say, the CRA should have been involved just to say, Is this really good for the community?

Number three, I'll give to, uh, our assistant city manager, uh, item number 3E of the Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization. They have a different meeting time on Monday next. So it's before the CRA. But it is obviously a Riviera Beach Heights, because it is an item, Miss Davis, for landscaping State Road 710 between Australian and Old Dixie.

And we spent five years doing planning studies of what we're going to do with Riviera Beach Heights and I think somebody needs to get this together and I'm giving it to the CRA tomorrow so that Mr. Evans and Brown can look at that.

I noted that when they jumped you, Miss Davis, about investigating a contract extension, that's a very valid thing. So every one of you have the opportunity to do that. The best thing, though, that should come out of things is communication. Write a memo to Miss Jones and have her distribute it to the world. Um, that's appropriate.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** (Inaudible) should apply to everyone.

**GERALD WARD:** Pardon?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** It should apply to everyone.

**GERALD WARD:** That's right. I -- I think that was great that you went and -- and asked her to do it and, uh, get things done.

Lastly, back on this crazy deal, uh, the capital element modifications that you made do not have any equipment in there. The current capital element for the police department is \$2.4 million out of the \$11 million. The one that you just adopted on first reading is zero. So I don't know what we're going to do. I thought we were going to create a state-of-the-art police department with, uh, new product and equipment. But it doesn't look like that.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Thank you, Mr. Ward. Um, I'm -- Mr. Wester, did you have another card in for -- under public comments?

**RICHARD WESTER:** No. I did not.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. So this is everybody.

**RICHARD WESTER:** (Inaudible).

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. All right. Under Discussion and, um, Deliberation.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Explanation of China travel expense. (Inaudible).

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes. I had talked with the Mayor. I approached him about this travel expense to -- to China. And, um, as I look at the expense report I see that the purpose of this trip was to, uh, develop economic -- was for economic development and to establish a sister city relation. And, uh, I did share with him I was quite surprised at the cost of the trip because in the, um -- you didn't have a copy? You don't have a copy?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** He doesn't have a copy.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** I don't have it, either. I forgot it. It's in my office.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** I can go -- is it part of the backup?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Is it in the backup?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** It should -- it should be on the -- should be in the backup on your --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Yeah. I couldn't read it very well.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** I -- I didn't see -- it's in the backup?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- uh, agenda. But there's some copies here. Well, that I was quite surprised that the trip cost the taxpayer \$4,496.75. And what I'd learned was that the money was not even in the budget, in the legislative budget, and that the city manager had to pay the card, of course, or the card would be inactive.

And besides the card, it -- having to impose upon the manager to cover this, as well as to cover a legislative budget that was overdrawn by some -- overspent by some \$3,000. It -- it -- it just speaks to that we need to be more conscientious about how we spend and on this particular trip, um, Mayor, we were not, as a council, informed about your desire to establish a sister-to-sister relationship and what it would cost.

And I -- I want to believe that it is so important that if we are traveling anywhere, in any country, that if we're going to initiate any kind of sister-to-sister relationship, that the blessings of the council should be given and we should be aware of short-term/long-

term benefit and what the cost would be. And I did speak -- ask you about it and if you want to share what your response was?

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Um, and thank you for placing, um, this item on the, um, agenda. A couple of things. First of all, as you and I traveled to the Bahamas and, um, you stated -- and we talked about that under the ceremonial power of the Mayor, he can proclaim a sister-and-sister relationship as long as it doesn't present a cost to the City.

Sister-to-sister relationship is basically an ambassador goodwill. There's -- there's no obligation to the City. We have one with the Freeport, Bahamas, mainly for the people -- the peoples of the, uh -- the various continents to interchange, exchange students, cultural, um, travel, tourism. It's just opening the door of understanding, the communication, uh, both ways. And as you know, I came back and gave a -- a report that talked about the students, the -- the Chinese students, the other ethnic students and what this would mean to the students.

So other than saying that there will not be any cost in the future going forth, and just like there hasn't been in the past, this expense was a travel-related expense. Um, as you know, the Chinese government took care of the, um, hotel. But the problems came about, you're dealing with a foreign country. They can't speak English. Sometimes you get somebody tell you one thing. You get there, it's another -- even -- so those expenses occurred caused some problems.

It certainly wasn't intentional. As you know, I have been the one who has tried to save the City as much as possible in all of my travels. Even in Washington, D.C. You know, I rented -- I got my sister's car, met you in Baltimore, didn't stay at a hotel. So I'm all about saving. So on behalf of my staff, we just apologize for, um, the miscalculation. It wasn't intentional.

It has happened. And just like the manager with other, uh, situations, have paid for trips and other expenses that we have incurred, whether before the fact or after. But it wasn't done for the manager to pay for the trip. The manager has never paid for any trips that I have taken or anything, basically. And this was a one-time deal.

It happened and, um, I've talked to my staff and we have put some safeguards in to make sure that when we're dealing with a foreign country, that this will not happen again. So I apologize. I'm sorry based on my staff. And I rely on my staff like everybody else up here to keep things right. So when we make mistakes we just have to say it was a mistake made. Wasn't intentional.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Well, Mayor, what I'm saying now --

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Apologize.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- you know I know you're a very intelligent person. You're very intelligent.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Very intelligent. But when I look at this report and I see on here hotel \$511 one night in Beijing, um, your air fare just to go from Los Angeles to China, \$2,500. And then travel from Los Angeles -- between Miami and Los Angeles,

one way, 542. Then coming back from Los Angeles to Miami, 255. And, um, rental car in Los Angeles. Um, it's -- it's just beyond what I see as a responsible way of doing something and charging it to the City.

This was after the fact. It should have been discussed with the city manager that this expense was beyond what you had in your budget to determine whether or not this was something that she could afford to take from her -- her budget.

Now, we're talking about a sister-to-sister relationship. And I know that when you did your presentation, you had said to the taxpayers it didn't cost that much. It was just my air fare. And quite frankly, I was thinking maybe something like \$2,500.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Uh-huh.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** With everything. But when it comes to \$4,496.75, we need to look at what is the return that we desire to get from this. If --

**MAYOR MASTERS:** I can answer -- I could answer that.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** That won't cost the City.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Right.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Because when we invited --

**MAYOR MASTERS:** No, let me --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- now, being, you know --

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- having a relationship with Freeport was a little bit different. It's closer. We're talking about trying to, uh, help each other economically with tourism. They're 90 miles away. But if we're talking about -- and they came over and it did cost the City to host them.

And you inferred in your presentation that we were going to host them. And the question is can we afford to host China, the people -- a delegation from China. Right now -- and this -- and I'm not going to labor on this 'cause I think you understand where I'm coming from. That here's a country -- first of all, it's a Communist country. United States is having problems with their fair trade practices. And do we, as a little small community in Riviera Beach --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Uh-huh.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- really see how that -- this -- this city can benefit us? We've already put in the 44 -- \$4,400. And do they expect us to host them?

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Madam Chair, um, host and sponsor, kind of two different things. Okay? Plans are being made as we speak that a Chinese delegation who's interested in investing in the United States, are looking at Riviera Beach particularly because I went and said, Look, look at our city. We've got some things to offer.

So communication between Tony Brown, CRA, and the Chinese will be coming over in the next two or three months to sit down and look at possibilities. We've already sent

them the, uh, possibilities of -- of investing in our city. So when they come over, they -- it will not cost us anything. Their air fare, their hotel will be no cost to the City. They're coming to invest. I mean, they have more money than we've got. They're coming to help us. Uh, and that's it.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Well, they -- they're assuming that if they come we will host them. I got a letter from them 'cause I was really curious about what was going to be the next thing from -- between us. And they're saying that they're planning to come to the United States sometime -- and Brazil the latter part of February and early March. And that they are hoping that they will come to visit our city.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Now, we know that if we invite anyone to the City for a tour, there's going to be an expense. So my thing -- and I think we need to nip this in the bud.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** I just said there will not be an expense.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** I mean, that's why we have economic --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Well, I'm just saying I have a letter here from them.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** And that's great. And they --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** They're thinking that we're going to be, uh, hosting them when they come to tour the city.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Right. This just means inviting them, just, you know, be nice to them.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Okay.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** But that's why the Mayor has an Economic Development team.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. But --

**MAYOR MASTERS:** We have business. We have sponsors. And, you know, there's not going to be any charge to the City.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Well --

**MAYOR MASTERS:** They're coming to look at how they can invest in our city and to help us.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- well, they -- well, they have a letter here addressed to me.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Thinking that we're gonna -- and -- and, you know, take them on a tour and really host them while they're here.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** A tour?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** But here's what -- here's what -- here's a point and it's just not to -- to -- to stay on you, Mayor. I -- I'd expressed to the city manager in my meeting with her that now is the time that we need to look at going forward, how all of us are

spending in our legislative budgets. There are five of -- four of us that will be up for re-election in March or election in March. In other words, our seats are -- end the two-year in March. We have six months within the fiscal budget -- six months is what's allocated for us or should be. And I asked Miss Jones, we need to think about how we're going to monitor the spending for the next six months so that if someone comes in, they won't find themselves like I did where all of the travel was exhausted.

Because if we have to come in, if the City has to come in and then put in monies to cover a budget for another six months because all of the allocated amount for 12 months has been exhausted or nearly exhausted, then we've gotta look fiscally as to how we're going to handle this.

So we all need to be very aware of how we're going to be spending. Um, if -- certainly that you're allowed to make line-item changes if you need to. Travel is easy. I mean, we only get \$2,500 and I would guess that everybody's probably going to spend that within the next -- within the first six months.

But we've gotta look at these other line items to ensure that at the end in March, the City doesn't find itself having to find money to, uh, put into the legislative budget. So I just think we all need to be very mindful of that. And that was a point that I wanted to get from all of this, Mayor. Not just picking on you.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Thank you. No, I understand. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. You're welcome.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Miss Davis.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Everybody knows I'm big on credit card expenses. Um, and -- and -- and I'm going to direct my -- I've been through this back in 2004. I don't want to go through it again. Um, and what I've seen, um, not just with the Mayor but others, um, bothers me.

And, um, my question directed to you, Miss Ryan and Miss Jones, you know, so that we don't continue to find ourselves in this situation, you know, repeatedly, first question is, now, we had a, um -- this is the procurement card manual.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** But that was back in 2005. But since that time and since 2008, since we came back, we adopted policy -- policies and procedures of credit card use.

When Mr. Perry was acting, um, assistant city manager we adopted that. And, you know, there is absolutely no reason why there should be unreconciled, um, bank statements for 10-, 11-, 12-month periods.

Also, second thing is, now most of our, um -- the five of us, um, excluding -- well, including the Mayor, um, most of our budgets are approved in -- during our budget process. And we know that we are supposed to stay within that budget. And anything that is outside of that needs to come back to council for approval. I don't care whether it's the Mayor or any one of us. It needs to come back here to be approved.

And -- and that's the problem that I have with that. So my question to you, Miss Ryan and Miss Jones, what should be the protocol? I mean, you know, somehow or another - now, I brought this up before and -- and it was rejected. But if we don't govern ourselves, this is going to keep on happening. So, um, should we put some kind of -- make a motion or -- and put something in place or should -- should an ordinance be developed or -- or what? You know, because what if we all just went out and spent whatever we want to spend? That's ridiculous.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Right. I --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** And it's not being fiscally responsible.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Right. It's not. It's not.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Miss Ryan.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** There are policies and procedures that govern staff and how staff is supposed to stay within its budget and what occurs to staff members should they not.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** No, but there -- there is -- there -- in that policies and procedures that was adopted by this council --

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Right.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** -- it stated that if people don't do their reconciliations every month, that at some point, you know, um -- and I guess the manager would make that decision -- credit card is revoked.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Okay.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** You know, so -- but what -- so what happens?

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** The manager can't -- the manager can't govern the city council. Only --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Well, that's why I'm saying --

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Right.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** -- we need to govern ourselves.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Right. Only -- let me --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay. All right.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** -- only the city council can govern the city council and the mayor.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** (Inaudible).

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** So I propose that we do some type of a resolution that states that if you go over your budget -- now, one of the issues is, if you go over your individual budgets, you can still -- you all have one big budget.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** I know.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Right.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** And you can still be within your budget and that's how changes are made. You have to decide.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** But then -- but then -- but then doesn't that take away from some other --

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Sure it does.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** -- line item?

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Yes.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** But still, that needs to be approved by council.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** So if you want each one of those items to come to council when you are over budget and --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Absolutely.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** -- and you want to do a transfer, that can certainly be done.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Now, the -- if -- if -- if each of us in our individual budgets want to move, say, money for, um, supplies or promo --

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Right.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** -- into travel, we -- you know, we don't need approval from the board to do that. I'm talking about when it goes to the big pot. You know, if -- if we've spent -- if somebody has --

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** And so -- and --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** -- spent all their money and then they're reaching over into the --

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** -- so you don't want them to go to, like --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** No.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** -- you don't want --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Right.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** -- the -- a council member to go to the --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** No.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** -- manager to pay --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** No.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Right.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** -- for a (inaudible)?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** No.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** That's my concern.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Okay. You don't want that to happen?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Absolutely not.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** You wanna -- you wanna bring it back to council?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Absolutely.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** That's right.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** And pay for it where?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** I'm sorry?

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** And pay for it where? Out of what line item?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Well, that's for council to decide.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** If I understand -- excuse me, Miss Davis. If I understand what we're talking about here --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Get approval first.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- each of us has a -- a specific amount that's allocated to us. And I'll just have to use to the Mayor an example. He had -- his budget was, what, 79, and I -- he went \$3,000 more, which had to come out of some money out of --

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Right. It's gotta come out of someplace, right.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- a fund. And it's those types of actions where it should come to the council.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Before the money is spent.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** But what I am saying is that it shouldn't get to that point.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Right.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** We need to start monitoring on a monthly basis -- and it would go, you know, to the Finance Director or somebody, that we monitor --

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Right.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- how money's being spent so we don't find ourselves near the end of the fiscal year, any one of the elected officials, having overspent their budget. Because we do have the right to change monies around.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Right. Right.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** If you're not using much in, uh, office supplies and you want to --

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Right.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- put it in travel, fine.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Right. Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** That's okay. But we're talking about when you have gone -- exhausted all of your funds and now we've gotta get the manager and the finance director to go and find and take money from someplace else. And that's not fair.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Uh-huh.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** That's just not really being --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** No.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- fiscally responsible.

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Okay. Well, staff can definitely develop something for your consideration. We -- we will -- we'll do that.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes. Yes. Yes.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** And I'd like it soon.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** I do, too.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Okay. All right.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** We have one public comment card.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Mr. Ward.

**GERALD WARD:** Gerald Ward, 31 W. 20<sup>th</sup> Street. Uh, we've probably taken close to 20 minutes now on this item and yet we're -- we're spending millions of dollars on real estate acquisition. Um, this is not rocket science. And, uh, I don't see that the Mayor was, uh, wrong in taking advantage of something.

I chewed him out because I didn't know that he went. And I have a Chinese card, uh, that I use as a dual card. Uh, accomplishing his job -- and he's been so much more on point as to what the charter says than, uh, the previous mayor of the beginning of the century. So he hasn't had the fight with the council over a variety of things.

But we really don't need to spend a lot of time on what becomes nickel/dime here compared to having process and procedure followed in big-ticket items. And changing the course of the city land use wise is extremely, uh, onerous. So, uh, you look at this. It's the city manager that has the job to sort of oversee you. She works for you but she oversees you. The same with the city attorney. That's why you have an attorney and why she is related to you in the employment venue. Getting advice.

But the city manager's job is to say, Wait. But at the same time she has pen authority well within this item. So you don't want to get so stringent that you -- each of you can't perform.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** I have a question. Um, I -- and I -- I certainly agree and support Councilman Davis' concerns. Um, that's why I've always done all I could do to save the City what I could.

Um, but my question is, what are we going to do with department heads who go over -- if we have department heads that go over their budgets, do we have a resolution? Because people have gone over their budgets, whether it's a --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** That's the city manager's responsibility.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** End of story. Okay. Community Benefits Request.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilwoman Pardo, Every child should smile on Christmas morning toy drive, 2 -- \$2,500 donation for toy drive and kickoff event.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** So moved.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Um, well, you do this every year. We know what you're doing. Let's vote. Okay. All in favor.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Davis?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Lowe?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Thomas?

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Pro-Tem Pardo?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Chair Brooks?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Unanimous vote.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** It's great what you're doing.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** And can I just remind everyone the toy event is tomorrow at Johnny Longboats. It starts at 6, from 6 to 10. We have Memory Lane there. Um, the police department will come out and help us, firefighters. Um, a lot of community, um, residents are helping us. It is a great event. I hope to see everyone. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Next?

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Revival Community Outreach Ministry, \$1,000 Billie E. Brooks, a community Christmas project to serve hot holiday meals, food baskets and gift cards for families from the West Riviera Beach -- Riviera Beach Elementary School.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** So moved.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Roll call?

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Lowe?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Thomas?

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Davis?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Pro-Tem Pardo?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Chair Brooks?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Next?

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Unanimous vote. Youth Recreation Association, \$1,200, Judy L. Davis, support YRA's community event and outreach program.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** So moved.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Second.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay. This --

**MAYOR MASTERS:** I want to add to that, as well, to the Y -- to the Youth Recreation Association. Um, \$600 for the support 'cause senior -- senior and youth -- only for senior and youth outreach programs that Mr. Calloway is doing. So I'd like the council to approve 600.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Let's go ahead and approve it and --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** That has to be (inaudible).

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- you'll get all the paperwork and everything.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Yes. Yes. Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** I mean, we already have the background on that organization and that's a good thing.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Yes.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** So we're going to do them --

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Okay. Then, Madam Chair, if we do that --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** -- I'd like to contribute \$500.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Oh, wonderful. Okay. Okay. Then --

**MAYOR MASTERS:** And mine was for senior and, uh, the youth.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Right. Mine's senior.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** And I'll just say that I made a commitment for the senior luncheon at Lindsey Davis so we'll just -- and that's going to be for \$1,000 maximum.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** For this organization?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** No, no. We don't -- this is for the, um --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** For Youth Recreation. (Inaudible). You got 5 plus 6 plus --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- for our -- for the -- for the Lindsey Davis Senior Program, the luncheon.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** (Inaudible). I think all of these additions now are spoken for --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Oh, on to that?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Youth Recreation.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** -- Youth Recreation.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yeah. It'll have to come after the fact.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Right. Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** It'll come after the fact.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Well, you can do it at the end and we can still do it.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** But I think all -- Miss Pardo, if I'm not -- yours was Youth Recreation?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Youth Recreation, 500 for the senior event.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** The Mayor was Youth Recreation.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** 600.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Now, you're giving 600. Is that right, Mayor?

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Six hundred, yes.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Okay.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** So that's plus 500 plus 600.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Okay.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** So that's plus 500 plus 600.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** So that's an additional 1,100.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** And if I could --

**CITY CLERK WARD:** (Inaudible).

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** -- if I could, um -- the -- the thousand is for, um, Mr., um -- I'm sorry, the Youth Recreation's seniors and youth events. \$200 is to assist with, um, the meetings of the, um --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** -- Palm Beach County Black Elected Officials that are going to be meeting here.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. We need to vote. Roll call?

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Thomas?

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Davis?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Lowe?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Pro-Tem Pardo?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Chair Brooks?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Unanimous vote. The next is City of Riviera Beach, 700 -- 701.32, Judy L. Davis, a housing fair regarding the Home Affordable Refinancing

Program.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Need a motion.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Yes.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** So moved.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** So moved. Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Did you want to talk about it, too?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Um, yes, ma'am. If you don't mind.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh. No.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Um, I'm sorry. Miss -- Miss Hall, did we put the \$200 extra in here? Okay. All right. So, um, the \$501 was to pay for the fliers, um, for a Part 2 Housing workshop that I am conducting along with the City and CRA and the Riviera Beach Community Development Corporation.

Um, it is strictly for persons who are looking to refinance, who may be upside down on their mortgages and want to take advantage of the historically low interest rates. Um, I wanted to go through the program myself first. Uh, I'm one of those people like probably 90 percent of us. Um, and managed to, uh, save quite a bit of money and knock 15 years off of my mortgage. So, um, the only requirement, though, is that your current mortgage has to be backed by Sallie Mae or Fannie Mae -- Freddie -- I'm sorry.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Freddie Mac.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Sallie Mae or Freddie Mac. Um, and if you're out there in the listening audience, uh, please write down this -- this Web address to check it to, uh - - for Fannie Mae. To see if it's, uh, backed by Fannie Mae go to [www.KnowYourOptions.com/LoanLookup](http://www.KnowYourOptions.com/LoanLookup). And it's all -- no spaces in between. Um, to check to see if it's on Freddie Mac or backed by Freddie Mac go to [www.FreddieMac.com/MyMortgage](http://www.FreddieMac.com/MyMortgage).

Uh, since the printing of this document, um, Fifth Third Bank has also confirmed. And I'm looking to hear back from, uh, Quicken Loans and USAA, which may be able to assist a lot of veterans who may need the assistance.

So I -- I hope that -- and this is not just for Riviera Beach residents. It's for anybody who needs the -- the assistance. So please come out. Um, and I do need a few volunteers, please, um, to help just kind of steer the people. The lenders will be there and you'll just walk through and, uh, get you started and then you can hopefully close within 30 days. So thank you all very much.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** You're welcome. My staff will try to assist you with -- with some of that, Miss Davis.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Um --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Vote?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- you need a vote? That's right. Okay.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Council -- Councilperson Davis?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Thomas?

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Lowe?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Chair Brooks?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Pro-Tem Pardo?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Unanimous vote. The next is Housing Partnership, \$500, Shelby Lowe, to support Bridges at Riviera Beach and hosting its second annual pancake breakfast with Santa for the Bridges families.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** So moved.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** So moved

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Did you want to talk about it?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Yeah. This, uh --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** (Inaudible).

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** -- this -- this is -- this is the second annual. We had our first event last year which was a, uh, major success. And, uh, it's an opportunity to work directly with kids and their family. It's inclusive. So, you know, it's, um, a program that I support mainly for that fact. And that, you know, the children aren't just coming but their family -- the entire families are coming. And we'll, uh, be able to enjoy this festivity with, uh -- with the entire family. So that's what this event entails.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Roll call, please?

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Chair Brooks?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Pro-Tem Pardo?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Lowe?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Thomas?

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Davis?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Unanimous vote. The next is City of Riviera Beach, \$500,

Thomas A. Masters, defray expense incurred for the Second Annual Councilman Cedrick A. Thomas Fifth Grade Fun Day.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** So moved.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Roll call. We all know about the event.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Madam Chair, that was just to -- just for the record, that --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** -- was to help defray some of the expense that Councilman Thomas incurred.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Roll call, please.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Lowe?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Brooks?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Pardo?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Thomas?

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Davis?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Unanimous vote.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Mr. Lowe.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Um, I noticed we were adding on to the Community Benefit portion.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** And being that, you know, we won't have another meeting before -- before Christmas, I wanted to give 500 to the Youth Empowerment Center for the kids, for their, uh, Christmas event. And I was wondering could I add that on.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Miss -- Miss -- Miss Jones just made it clear. I was telling her also that I wanted to help out with the senior luncheon at -- at, um --

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Calloway.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- Lindsey Davis. So --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** So --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** So for 21 we'll have -- that's the Youth -- Youth Empowerment, did you say?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Youth Empower -- our -- our Youth Empowerment, YEP.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** And that'll be 500?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Yes, ma'am.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Well, let's go ahead on and vote on that.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** So moved.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Roll call.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Brooks.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Pardo?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Lowe?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Thomas?

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Davis?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Unanimous vote.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. And then for 22 I'm gonna, um, be contributing \$1,000 for the senior Christmas function at Lindsey Davis.

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** So moved.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Thomas?

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Davis?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Councilperson Lowe?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Chair Brooks?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Pro-Tem Pardo?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK WARD:** Unanimous vote.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Um, Discussion by City Manager. Gotta run?

**CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO:** (Inaudible).

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** (Inaudible). Go ahead (inaudible).

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Just a couple of, um, reminders. You have in front of you folders with requests for information and nominations for the Martin Luther King event, and I would encourage you to complete those as we select and recognize key individuals in our community. Also, just a reminder to council and to the residents, we have vacancies on the Planning & Zoning Board.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Yeah.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** And so if you are interested, you can either go to the website under the Clerk's Office and find out how to apply or contact someone here. But we really need the resume. We need the information. Um, because we need to keep those positions filled on those respective, um --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Boards, yeah.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** -- boards, councils and commissions.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Now, to whom would the resume be addressed to? City clerk? I know at one time --

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** City clerk is good enough 'cause she'll get them to the respective department.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Good. All right. Okay. Is that it?

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** That's it.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Legal?

**CITY ATTORNEY RYAN:** Madam Chair, I just wanted to, um, let the council know that I did send a -- a detailed memo out to each one of you on the Ocean Mall, giving you an Ocean Mall update so, um, please peruse that at your convenience and let me know if you have any questions about where we are in the process.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Um, Committee Reports from any council members?

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** I have one, Madam Chair. Um, met -- there is a Water Taxi Committee, um, and we met -- I think it was on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Um, and the MPO gave us this charge to try and bring forth, um, regulations, a process, rather, for anyone who's -- wants to operate a boat, um, as a water taxi so that, you know, you don't have all of these cities, you know, coming up with their own, you know, individual regulations and things that they had to do. So we're making progress on that and I'll keep you apprised.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** I just wanna --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes. Yes. Oh, yes.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** -- uh, from our committee for Education Board, um, I

just wanna just, um, make sure that I echo the comments that I had last meeting in reference to if your child is attending John F. Kennedy Middle School for grades seventh and eighth, and they have a 3.0 average and acceptable conduct, that they have granted access into Suncoast School and we would like for everyone to take advantage of that if they possibly can.

If you have any questions about this, please contact the School Choice Office and/or Suncoast or John F. Kennedy. The school district's phone number is 434-8000. John F. Kennedy's phone number is 845-8700. And Suncoast High School's telephone number is 882-3400. So we worked very hard to be able to get this --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** You have them memorized.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** I know. I kind of know them right off my head, huh? That shows you how many times I done called them. We -- we've worked very hard to, uh -- to get this to this point so we definitely want our students to be able to benefit from it. So please call. Please call. Please call. And the application deadline, I think, is coming up, if it has not passed. So that's all I'm going to report from the Education Committee.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** December 16<sup>th</sup>.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Yeah. December 16<sup>th</sup> is the deadline.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Now we're down to Statements by Mayor and City Council. And again, I'll start with you to the right and move down.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Sure. Um, the -- the first thing that I would like to do is I would like to -- as I stated tonight, that I'm going to contact all of the homeowners' associations, um, in reference to meeting with them to talk about this, uh, project. Um, and the ones that I'm going to name off are the ones that I'm going to contact if there's a phone number for them. If I do not call the name, and you have a homeowners' association that we just might not have on file, please call my office at 845 -- that's the one number I don't know.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Oh, God.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Uh, 36 -- I think it's 8 --

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** 87 --

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** -- 87 -- 845-3687. How about that? Okay. The first one is Harmony Heights Homeowners' Association, Lone Pine Estates Association, National Village Homeowners' Association, Neighbors United Association, Southside Coalition, Concerned Mothers of Southside, W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street Pioneers' Organization, Harmony Cove Neighborhood Association, 35<sup>th</sup> Street Community Resource Council.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Right.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** I've never heard of that.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** I think that's (inaudible).

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Monroe Heights Neighborhood Association, Harmony Lane Neighborhood Association, Home Beautiful Neighborhood Association, Parson

Heights Neighborhood Association, Federal Gardens Neighborhood Association, Turtle Cay Homeowners' Association, Woodbine Homeowners' Association, Thousand Oaks Homeowners' Association, Sonoma Bay Homeowners' Association, Marsh Harbour Homeowners Association, Villa Rosa Homeowners' Association, Park Manor Homeowners' Association, Marina Grande Homeowners' Association, Lake Breeze Homeowners' Association, Sugar Sands Homeowners' Association, Yacht Harbor Manor Homeowners' Association and Park Manor Association. If you have not left a current phone number, please don't expect a call because we won't have it.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Please call me if you can to update but I will make contact with these individuals between tomorrow morning and Friday morning just to get a -- a meeting set up of that. And if I did not call your association, please give us a call at 845-3687 and we'll get that.

The other thing that I want to do is I want to thank all of the staff here who are, you know, too many to name individually at this point but I will contact you. The -- from the police, fire, public works, everyone that put in on the, um -- helped out with the turkey giveaway, the fourth annual turkey giveaway. It was a great success.

Um, we were able to distribute about 980 turkeys to a lot of our residents. We actually have the number. I think our residents topped around 784 that we were able to give to our personal residents. Some of them, of course, were -- weren't our residents but we appreciate that -- we appreciate the -- the donors that helped with that. Um, Viking, Mr. Sean Pittman, Oceanside Beach Service. So we -- we do appreciate, um, all of those.

We also would like to thank the, um -- the staff for helping out with a wonderful Fifth Grade Fun Day.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** A lot of individuals were able to come out. I know, Miss Brooks, you came, and you had to attend another appointment. But we -- we were able to serve approximately 525 fifth graders. A video will be up on the channel here pretty soon once we get it all edited out.

And we just want to make sure that everyone knows that we -- we appreciate from everyone who, uh, lifted a box or donated to that particular function, it -- it was a great success. So I do want to thank, um, everyone for those. They -- they were a lot of hard -- there was a lot of hard work put in it but we -- we do appreciate them. So the, you know, Vanguard Construction, Newbold Construction, um, (Inaudible) Wells. I mean, the list goes on and on. Pittman Law Group, Global Fellowship Ministries. Uh, they go on and on.

I know I probably missed someone, um, so we will put them on the website and the, uh, channel to just thank you for that. Once again, I want to thank the -- the staff for that.

Um, and that is pretty much it for now. And we'll be getting ready for our Night of Elegance honoring these seniors so we'll get cranking on that probably in January. Yeah, I know. I'm saying the same thing. You know? So we'll get cranking on that. So seniors, you know, if you have any interest, you can start calling the office. Let's put your name on a -- on a list now. I'm sure Miss, um, Lobosky is ready for the calls to

start coming in again. So 561-845-3687 to, um, you know, hold a spot for this event.

So we'd like to thank you very much, staff, once again. Thank you a bunch. We appreciate it. And that's all for me.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. I know we're supposed to be over by 10 according to our new resolution. I'm gonna be really quick. I want to remind everyone that for seniors that are 60 years of age and older and your income is 25,350 or less, you can qualify for our Senior Utility Assistance Program that will be a -- a credit on your water bill.

The other is we have now a plan in place for persons whose water bills have skyrocketed. And we do need you to call the office if, in fact, your bill has gone at least double, at least double its usual rate or cost, monthly cost. Please call us and we will certainly allow you to appeal now for consideration.

There's a formula. If your bill has exceeded double the usual amount, we will allow you to pay the previous month. We will look at your 12-month history and then estimate what your charges will be for the next four months while we are doing an investigation into what is happening with your water bill. And please call my office at 845-3686. That's 845-3686.

And a bit of good news for people who -- whose homes are still in disrepair from Wilma. Um, my staff has found a source that still has money available to do repair if your home was damaged from Wilma. So please call at 845-3686.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Um, question to Mrs. Jones. Have we not set a -- another date for the Marina Workshop or is that going to be forthcoming?

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** It's forthcoming. The Chair and I talked about that yesterday.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay.

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** She met with Mr. Brown, so it's forthcoming.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Okay. That's all I have.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yeah.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Thank you for -- for moving that.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Oh, you're welcome.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** That's (inaudible).

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Mr. Lowe?

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Yes. Um, I have two things. Um, Miss Anita Jenkins from CRA, can you come up a little bit and we want to talk about -- briefly talk about our market --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** We should have had her (inaudible). Yeah.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** -- that is, um, going to start up this weekend. So while you come up, I'd also like to comment on a -- a trip I took this weekend to the National K through 12 Chess Tournament in Orlando. And it kind of -- it changed my life in that, you know -- to see the young kids thinking and solving problems and reasoning and

interacting with adults.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** And just to witness their capacity to pick up things and absorb information and to actually, you know, strategize at -- at -- at such an early age was inspiring to me. And then now I know why, you know, I concentrate most of my efforts towards, you know, the youth-oriented activities and -- and -- and making -- or providing access to youth for things that I didn't have when I was growing up.

But to see this was very encouraging and that I got the chance to see the -- the thinking pool of the next generation. And I'm pleased with that and anything I can do to improve on that, especially in Riviera Beach, you know, that's one thing that I would, you know, dedicate what little time I have left on this earth to -- to do so 'cause that's -- you know, that -- our children are our future. So just keep your eyes and ears open. They are very interested in doing a chess program, after-school program in Riviera Beach. And, uh, hopefully we'll have them here shortly to present before the council and gain the community's support. Now to the market.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Miss Jenkins.

**ANITA JENKINS:** Hello.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Hi.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Hi.

**ANITA JENKINS:** Good evening. And very briefly -- and thank you, Commissioners and Mayor and, um, Miss City Manager for the opportunity to announce that our Riviera Beach Market at the Marina will debut this Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Wow.

**ANITA JENKINS:** -- at 2:00. It will run from 2 to 7. I have a number of cards. If there are people who are interested in being vendors, we still have vendor spaces. We want to invite the entire community to come out. We're going to have fresh, wholesome local foods, uh, fresh foods, prepared foods. There will be entertainment, very excellent entertainment.

We'll have prizes every hour. We'll have children's activities, etc., and we'll have our own local residents who will be partaking of this small business opportunity. The market will be located at 13<sup>th</sup> and Broadway at the entrance to the marina. It will be held every Saturday starting this Saturday through March 9<sup>th</sup> for our first season.

So we want all the residents to come by, drive by, come buy some food, buy some pies, get some seafood. It is going to be fabulous. Come out and have a good time. We want to enjoy our marina. So check out TV 18 for our commercials. You'll start -- you will be hearing radio announcements if you have not already done so. You can call the City.

And I just want to thank the City staff and department heads and Miss Jones for all of the help in helping us to pull this together. The logistics have been very, very interesting. So we have marketing materials all over the community and we look forward to seeing everybody at the Riviera Beach Market at the Marina this Saturday starting at 2. And we'll be there until 7:00 in the evening. Thank you.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Thank you.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Thank you so much, Miss Jenkins. Okay, Mayor?

**MAYOR MASTERS:** Psalms 27:1, "The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes, come up on me and eat up my flesh, they stumble and fall."

Um, a couple of things I want to state. One is, um, it was remarked that the one night in Beijing was \$500. I do want to clarify that. I went to the Democratic Convention. The hotel was \$400 and right here in the United States. So things are different. And it also included food so it didn't -- it just wasn't for a room, but food, as well. But Beijing is very expensive and very high.

Next thing I want to say is this: The Job Fair was very successful. The very next day a young lady was hired at Publix because she took some of the information that we told her about interviewing and how to dress. And she saw me today and she said, "Mr. Mayor, it worked." And that's what it's all about, is getting people jobs.

The Senior Citizen Discount Program for our program for the seniors, there's, uh, no qualifications. None. You don't have to make a certain amount. Nothing about your income. Nothing about how many people live in your house. If there are any questions, ask. You just have to be over 62 years of age and reside in the City of Riviera Beach. That's it.

Over a thousand people have requested. We're trying to get the cards out. Well, a thousand have gone out and there are thousand more that have requested the cards. Please come to the office. The cards are being made hopefully in the next two or three days. You can get your cards absolutely free at the Mayor's Office, or you can go online and order it and we'll get it out to you in the mail as quickly as we can.

I want to -- because I just want to, as well, be sure, because as was stated tonight, everyone doesn't come to the neighborhood meetings. Residents may come, a few. But still not a -- it's -- it's an idea of how people feel. Some people. But I will get a sponsor to pay for a, um -- the best poll that could be taken, sample of the residents. No cost to the City. But the residents in Riviera Beach. And let the poll tell you exactly what the majority of people feel. We'll find somebody, pay for it and it's done.

Okay. Um, Dawn Pardo was -- was blessed to get the Governor to come to our city several months ago. Well, Congressman Murphy, our new Congressman, has made contact with the Office of the Mayor. And he will be visiting the Mayor tomorrow. I've already put the manager on notice to know about it. And he will also, I guess, speak to the department heads in the meeting and will tour the campus. I've asked him, um, to tour the campus, as well, to the police department, the fire department and the library.

Also, any other elected officials who would like to share in the meeting with our newly elected representative, please do so. And the public. If you would like to come and welcome him here and just shake his hand outside as he comes in, the Congressman is expected to arrive at 10:30. Is that right, Miss Isaac? 10:30 tomorrow, which would be Thursday here at the, uh -- on our campus.

I've also been invited to attend one of the White House celebrations in the next two or three, uh, weeks as the President celebrates Christmas with others and the different things that's going to be going on at the White House.

Last but not least, I -- I really have been convicted by this because the President has spoke about it, Congressman West -- former Congressman West has spoken about it and others, and I've been praying about it and thinking about it. But it's -- it is very shameful that veterans come back to the United States after having served and many of them are homeless and many of them are jobless and many of them are just less of everything. These men and women have served our country well. And to come back and have to live like many of them are living and be subject to less than standard -- a standard of living is shameful.

So I went out and got a volunteer that will be here from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., a lady who is qualified, Kelly Morrison, who actually ran the -- the veterans' place right down the street on H Avenue.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** American Legion.

**MAYOR MASTERS:** American Legion. And we are setting up within the Office of the Mayor, the Mayor's Office, a Veteran Affairs to effectively advocate on the behalf of Riviera Beach veterans and their immediate families to assist them in obtaining their earned veteran services and benefits, plus a lot more other stuff that the Office of the Mayor will do to make sure that this office will do whatever we can do to assist the veterans of Riviera Beach.

Miss Morrison will probably be at the next council meeting and we will introduce her and present her and go more in detail. I don't want another veteran, not on my watch, to have to suffer any more in our city, having served our country so well. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Thank you, Mayor. Thank you so much.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** So if I lose my home, you're gonna help me find one?

**MAYOR MASTERS:** I ain't buying that.

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Anyway, uh, just one last comment: At the League of Cities that took place over the last few days in Boston, I want to announce that Mr. Clarence Anthony, who served as a former president of the National League of Cities, has been named the Executive Director. The former -- uh, the executive -- current executive director has been there for 22 years and he is stepping down, so I want to send out congratulations to Mr. Anthony. He is world-traveled and has a vast amount of experience and knowledge. And I think he's going to do well for the National League.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** All right. There'll be no further business --

**COUNCILPERSON DAVIS:** Executive director.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- adjourned.

**COUNCILPERSON THOMAS:** Move to adjourn.

**COUNCILPERSON LOWE:** Second.

(CONCLUSION OF MEETING)

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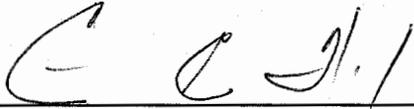


THOMAS A. MASTERS  
MAYOR

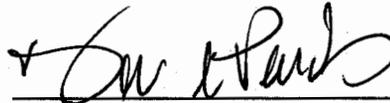


BILLIE E. BROOKS  
CHAIRPERSON

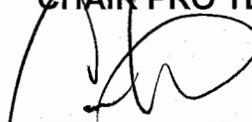
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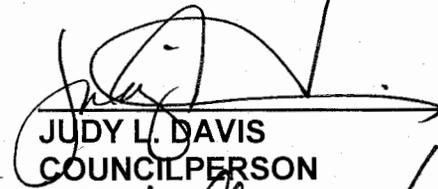
CARRIE E. WARD  
MASTER MUNICIPAL CLERK  
CITY CLERK



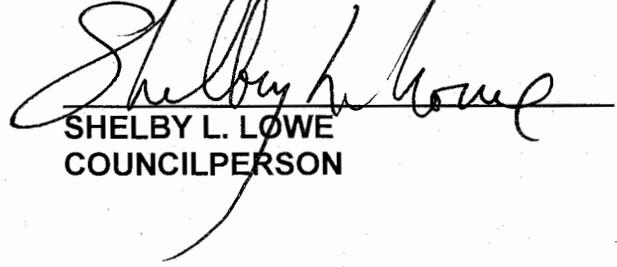
DAWN S. PARDO  
CHAIR PRO TEM



CEDRICK A. THOMAS  
COUNCILPERSON



JUDY L. DAVIS  
COUNCILPERSON



SHELBY L. LOWE  
COUNCILPERSON

MOTIONED BY: S. LOWE

SECONDED BY: D. PARDO

B. BROOKS AYE

D. PARDO AYE

C. THOMAS TARDY

J. DAVIS TARDY

S. LOWE AYE

DATE APPROVED: 2/06/2013