

151209 Council Update

Pedestrian Safety Crossing Cervantes Street/Scenic Highway in East Pensacola Heights

- Constituent Services staff contacted FDOT following a citizen complaint that was sent to Council members and the Mayor about pedestrian safety around E. Cervantes St. in the East Pensacola Heights area
- Cervantes is a state roadway and FDOT is responsible for maintenance and improvements. The response from FDOT is:
 - We have reviewed our crash records to see if there is some history of pedestrian related crashes along this stretch of roadway.
 - We also made some field observations and are considering updating some of the existing signing that is in place.
 - We are also looking to add some signing to notify drivers that they must stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.
 - We will prepare a summary of our findings and prepare a sketch that shows where these updated and new signs will be added.
 - We would also like to monitor the conditions for future considerations.

RESTORE Project Applications

- City staff is scheduled to present additional information about its project submittals on January 11
- BoCC discussion of the applications is not expected to happen any earlier than February

Florida Gulf Coast Marine Fisheries Hatchery/Enhancement Center

- Baskerville-Donovan has begun preparing surveys of the hatchery site in order to move forward with removal of the stockpiled debris on the site
- The RFSOQ from firms offering professional architectural, engineering & environmental science services closed on November 24 and we are waiting on the results from DEP. DEP anticipates that the contract will be awarded at the end of January 2016.

Living Shoreline NRDA Project

- NOAA's contractor, HDR, completed initial field investigations in late October. The geotechnical studies indicated no concerns about the capability of the sites' soils in supporting the living shoreline breakwater structures.
- During the Phase 1 cultural resources survey several submerged objects were located that require further investigation to determine if they have historical significance. NOAA has decided to proceed with additional field investigations of the potential cultural resources at both the Project GreenShores Site II and the Sanders Beach project area. Although this will result in a delay to the schedule, it is necessary to ensure that the project does not impact cultural resources.

Uber

- Uber drivers have been operating successfully at the airport since the interim agreement was signed in November.
- There have been no complaints about Uber's operations at the airport.

Minority/Women Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Program

- Businesses continue to submit program certification applications.
 - Council members need to encourage potentially eligible businesses in their districts to apply.
- Purchasing staff is contacting local businesses throughout the regional area to promote the program.
- Purchasing staff will participate in a January 5 workshop hosted by the Gulf Coast African American Chamber of Commerce titled, *How to Do Business with the City, County and State*. Staff will present information about the M/WBE program and the benefits of obtaining certification.

Baywoods Gully & Carpenter Creek

- The City asked for and received an extension to complete the work associated with the grant from USDA to make repairs to both sites has been extended. Under the original terms of the grant we were granted 220 days to make the repairs and that time had expired.
- Staff is still contesting FEMA's denial of our Project Worksheet for a significant section of Baywoods Gully.

311 Update

- Average call volume is up and more people are downloading the smartphone app.
- Continue to ask for help from council members to encourage constituents to take advantage of the service. Fast, friendly, reliable. Real people answer the phone.

We have generally followed a policy of not commenting on allegations that appear in blog posts but one recent subject bears commenting upon.

Elizabeth Schrey, a former city employee, has stated that she was asked to lie to City Council and was subsequently terminated for her refusal to do so.

That is simply not the case. Her statement is patently false.

It remains our policy that we do not publicly comment on personnel actions.

If any one of you wants to know more about Elizabeth Schrey's period of employment with the City and the reasons for her termination please do not hesitate to contact me.

Councilman Bare wrote to Mayor Hayward today and said that he does not believe that it is necessary to conduct security screenings for citizens attending city council meetings and that he would like to cease the screenings.

The mayor is ultimately responsible for the safety and security of everyone in City Hall and he firmly believes that the security screenings are an integral part of his overall security program.

There is no plan to stop the screenings. In fact, recent events indicate the need to be more vigilant.

By coincidence, management staff met this morning to discuss our overall security posture and to hear the preliminary findings of the PPD's assessment of City Hall security, to include the security measures in place for council meetings.

The results of those findings indicate that there is a need for some additional measures and we will be implementing them in the near future.