

City of St. Petersburg  
**PUBLIC SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**  
Meeting of JUNE 12, 2014 – 9:15 A.M.  
City Hall, Room 100

Members and Alternates: Committee Chair William “Bill” Dudley, Vice Chair Steve Kornell, Councilmembers Wengay Newton, Darden Rice, and James Kennedy (alternate)

Support Staff: Brian Campbell, primary staff support; Blaise Mazzola, backup staff support

- A. Call to Order
- B. Approval of Agenda
- C. Approval of Minutes
  - 1. [May 22, 2014](#)
- D. New Business
  - 1. Improving Traffic Safety - Mory/Frederick
  - 2. Pedestrian Safety - Mory/Stacks
- E. Upcoming Meetings
  - 1. July 17, 2014
    - (a) TBD
- F. New Business Item Referrals -
  - 1. [Pending and Continuing Referral List](#)
- G. Adjournment

# CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

Public Services and Infrastructure Committee Meeting

May 22, 2014 @ 9:15 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Committee Chair Bill Dudley; Vice-Chair Steve Kornell; Councilmembers Wengay Newton, Darden Rice, and James Kennedy (alternate)

**ALSO:** Councilmembers Charlie Gerdes and Karl Nurse; Mike Dove, Neighborhood Administrator; Todd Yost, Code Compliance Director; Rick Badgely, City Attorney; Ken Betz, acting primary support staff; Blaise Mazzola, backup staff support; and Patricia Beneby, Deputy City Clerk

Committee Chair Dudley opened the meeting with roll call. Councilmember Newton moved for approval of the Agenda. Ayes: Dudley, Kornell, and Newton; Nays: None. Councilmember Newton moved for approval of the May 8, 2014 as amended. Ayes: Dudley, Kornell, and Newton; Nays - none.

Committee members Darden Rice and James Kennedy entered the meeting.

In connection with the new business, Codes Department Strategic Update, Mike Dove reported that Staff has met with neighborhood associations and the community to identify things that needed to be changed or added to the current codes enforcement process. He noted that they originally designed the plan as a one year plan, however, some things will take 3 years to fully implement and some will be implemented immediately.

Mr. Todd Yost, Codes Compliance Director, announced that his presentation will include both new business items: Codes Department Strategic Updates and Foreclosure Registry Update. He began his presentation by discussing the following 14 strategic items identified that the codes department will be implementing:

1. Staff Productivity Development (*Implementing*)
  - Develop accountability standards for performance levels and goals.
2. Staff Implementation Strategy (*Implementing*)
  - Create effective personnel assignments to address difficult code related issues, and frequent and easily remedied violations (night & weekend investigators, sign investigator, and nuisance specialist).
3. Enforcement Strategy (*Implementing*)
  - Develop an expeditious enforcement strategy to bring violations into compliance in a faster average time.
4. Community Communication Strategy – re-establish relations with neighborhoods (*Implementing*)
  - Develop accountable, transparent, effective and expeditious communication to residents on code related issues.
5. Technical Upgrades (*Implementing*)
  - Implement technical changes that result in more cost effective use of equipment and that result in higher levels of productivity (mobile applications & table hardware).

6. Securing and Demolition Processes Review (*Implementing*)
  - Develop a demolition and securing program that supports the City's housing strategy and initiatives utilizing the most expeditious and cost effective approach.
7. "Bad Apple" Registry/Chronic Nuisance Process Strategy (*bring back to PSI*)
  - Research and develop a program to address nuisance property owners.
8. Liens on Tax Assessments
  - Proposal to include liens on the property tax bill.
9. Foreclosure Sale (Housing Strategy) (*Implementing*)
  - Explore the ability to use legal means to petition judgment of sale of foreclosed properties where the City has financial interest through liens or assessments applied to property.
10. Establish a Working Team with Police (*Implementing*)
  - Create a staff team and liaisons to work with the Police Department on a routine basis to resolve nuisance and problem properties and areas.
11. "City Teams" Strategy (*Implementing*)
  - Identify neighborhoods that would benefit from a "City Team" approach where coordinated department activity is needed to address issues that have become problematic for the community. Re-establish the coordination of the "City Team" process.
12. Short Term Rentals Review (*bring back to PSI*)
  - Review the possibility of changing the ordinance to allow short term rentals in single family residential neighborhoods for the purpose of vacation rental.
13. Seek Creative Solutions from Other Cities in Florida (*Continuous*)
  - Research municipal and local information from other areas of the state and nation to find creative and tested approaches that address neighborhood and housing issues that could be incorporated into strategies for St. Petersburg.
14. Foreclosure Registry Review
  - Evaluate the existing foreclosure program for effectiveness and determine strategic use of the program in maintaining properties.

Mr. Yost presentation included graphs, charts and statistics that explained the 14 defined areas that the codes department will be implementing.

He explained that the new Foreclosure Ordinance has taken the department from an average of 250 inspections to over 3,000 in 2013, and that he needs three full time Inspectors just to keep up with this new Ordinance. Mr. Yost indicated the department is ready to implement 12 of the 14 strategies and will bring back # 7 - "Bad Apples" and #12 - Short term rental reviews to the Committee at a future date.

Discussion was held regarding the required number of inspections and the foreclosure registration fee. Mr. Yost recommended continuing the program and increasing the foreclosure registry fee. Councilmember Nurse suggested the possibility of reducing the number of inspections if someone is living in the house. Councilmember Kennedy suggested reviewing the foreclosure registry ordinance. Councilmember Kornell spoke regarding rental inspections and suggested requiring a gate.

Chair Dudley commented Staff for their hard work.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

## PENDING / CONTINUING REFERRALS

		TOPIC	DATE REFERRED	REFERRED BY	MEETING DATE(S)	RETURN DATE	STAFF	SPECIAL NOTES
1	Public Safety	<b>Public Safety</b> <i>(From Goal Setting Workshop)</i>	06/11/12	Council	06/14/12 – <a href="#">Video</a>	Date to be obtained by CM Dudley	<i>SPPD</i> Chief Harmon	A presentation responding to select public safety items discussed during City Council's Goal Setting Workshop. Items extracted from that list for discussion include: 1) drug activity; 2) proactive policing; 3) expansion of uniformed personnel; 4) citizen involvement (volunteers) / crime watch.
2	Code Change	<b>Towing Ordinance</b>	04/19/12	Newton		TBD		<a href="#">Referral Document</a>
3	Code Change	<b>Urban Farming</b>	07/12/12	Nurse	06/13/13 - <a href="#">Video</a>	December 2013	<i>Planning &amp; EcoDev</i> Goodwin Lazzara Kilborn	<a href="#">Referral Document</a> On 12/12/13 referred to staff for further clarification.
4	Policy or Program Change	<b>Unimproved Alleys</b>	12/20/12	Nurse	03/27/2014	TBD	<i>Zoning Department</i> Lazzara	<a href="#">Referral Document</a> City staff to draft a pilot program in designated neighborhoods to evaluate the feasibility and time constraints of this topic.
5	Policy or Program Change	<b>Yellow Light Study</b>	4/4/13	Gerdes	06/13/13 - <a href="#">Video</a>	January 2014	<i>Trans.Parking Mgt.</i> Kubicki	<a href="#">Referral Document</a> On 1/16/2014 referred to City Council Workshop
6	Capital Projects	<b>Downtown Intermodal Facility Study</b>	10/07/09	Staff	10/22/09 02/11/10 07/29/10 08/12/10 - <a href="#">Video</a>	Late 2014 / Early 2015	<i>Trans.Parking Mgt.</i> Kubicki	Report on site evaluations and RFP. CM Danner gave brief update on 3/28/13. Tabled until late 2014 / early 2015.
7	Policy or Program Change	<b>Chain Link Fencing (Central)</b>	08/22/13	Danner	09/12/13	TBD	<i>Planning &amp; EcoDev</i> Goodwin	<a href="#">Referral Document</a>

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8	Code Change	<b>Sea Level Rise</b>	12/5/13	Kornell	03/13/2014	TBD	<i>Public Works</i> Mike Connors	Proposed Ordinance No. 101-H
9	Policy or Program Change	<b>2013 Municipal Equality Index Ranking</b>	12/5/13	Kornell	TBD			From City Council Meeting 12/5/2013.
10	Policy or Program Change	<b>Honey Bee Infestation</b>	11/25/13	Kornell	01/30/2014			1/30/2014 – Sent to City Staff for investigation and review.
11	Code Change	<b>Codes Department Strategic Updates/ Additional Sworn Code Enforcement Officers</b>	11/25/2013	Kornell	05/22/2014		Todd Yost	From City Council Meeting 11/25/2013.
12	Code Change	<b>After Hours Permit Fee</b>	12/19/2013	Danner				From City Council Meeting 12/19/2013.
13	Code Change	<b>Skateboarding</b>	1/23/2014	Nurse				Sent to Legal to update Ordinance.
14	Code Change	<b>Tree Ordinance</b>	1/23/2014	Kornell	05/08/2014		Lazzara	Discussion to include, but not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Having one city department as the point of contact for all tree-related permits.</li> <li>2. Providing penalties for contractors who do not pull permits.</li> <li>3. Increased penalties for contractors who are repeat offenders.</li> </ol>

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		TOPIC	DATE REFERRED	REFERRED BY	MEETING DATE(S)	RETURN DATE	STAFF	SPECIAL NOTES
15	Capital Projects	<b>Vertical Elements on Central Avenue Bulbouts</b>	1/30/2014	Danner	TBD		<i>Trans.Parking Mgt.</i> Kubicki	Staff to return to PS & I with 2 recommendations: 1) Limiting the expense on the vertical elements on 4 bulbouts on Central Avenue, and 2) An overall maintenance plan for City medians and bulbouts.
16	Code Change	<b>Pedal Pub</b>	2/27/2014	Dudley	03/27/2014			Legal to investigate the ordinance which would allow beer and wine to be brought on board the Pedal Pub and to have the Police Department and Transportation Department involved in the ordinance.
17	Code Change	<b>Mobile Food Trucks</b>	10/20/11	Curran	11/03/11 12/08/11 - <a href="#">Video</a> 02/23/12 - <a href="#">Video</a> 03/22/12 - <a href="#">Video</a> 05/30/13 - <a href="#">Video</a>		<i>Planning &amp; EcoDev</i> Goodwin Kilborn	<a href="http://www.stpete.org/LegisStream/MG278556/AS278557/AS278571/AI284216/DO284217/DO_284217.PDF">http://www.stpete.org/LegisStream/MG278556/AS278557/AS278571/AI284216/DO284217/DO_284217.PDF</a>  An overview of "mobile food trucks" and options for allowing their operation in St. Petersburg.
18	Policy or Program Change	<b>Foreclosure Registry Update</b>	03/31/14	Dudley	05/22/2014		<i>Yost</i>	Referred by Council Member Dudley .
19	Policy or Program Change	<b>Duke Energy Presentation</b>	03/06/14	Kornell	TBD		<i>Yost</i>	Referred by Council Member Kornell from City Council Meeting 03/06/14.
20	Policy or Program Change	<b>Improving Traffic Safety</b>	04/03/14	Nurse	06/12/2014		Mory/Frederick	

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21	Policy or Program Change	<b>Special Event Recycling Requirement</b>	04/17/14	Kornell	TBD			Referred by Council Member Kornell from City Council Meeting 04/17/14.
22	Policy or Program Change	<b>Rename Childs Park Recreation Center to Childs Park Recreation &amp; Fitness Center</b>	04/17/14	Newton	TBD			Referred by Council Member Newton from City Council Meeting 04/17/14.
23	Policy or Program Change	<b>Pedestrian Safety</b>	05/22/14	Foster	06/12/2014		Mory/Stacks	Referred by Council Member Foster from City Council Meeting 05/22/14.