

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND, FLORIDA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP MINUTES
JANUARY 3, 2012**

The workshop was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Mayor Minning.

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Variance Case CC-2012-01-VR located at 400 Treasure Island Causeway – Setting of the Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing Date – No Commission Discussion

Ms. Rosetti stated that this is the setting of the public hearing and variance case for The Club located at 400 Treasure Island Causeway. There will be no discussion tonight. She is requesting that the date be set for January 17th at the next Commission meeting. Once the date is set she will send out the appropriate notices.

It was moved by Commissioner Coward and seconded by Commissioner Collins to set the date of January 17th for the public hearing. Upon roll call the vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

2. Consideration of Res. 12-07, Treasure Island Chamber of Commerce Republican National Convention beach event

Ms. Hayduke stated that on July 5, 2011 the Chamber of Commerce brought forward the idea of this event. Upon receipt of the request she requested comments from the departments involved. The Police Chief is here to speak as well to address the public safety concerns.

Chief Casey stated that he fully supports any event in Treasure Island. He is looking at this solely from a public safety aspect. He is concerned with the amount of resources that would be needed and those that would be available for this event. There are 50,000 people expected to attend the event, along with 15,000 members of the media. Law enforcement is expecting approximately 15,000 protesters. Their focus will be the event location in Tampa, but they will be anywhere that participants are. The City of Tampa has received a grant to cover some of the costs of this event. They expect to hire an additional 2,500 police officers to safeguard participants in the RNC event. The Governor is anticipating extending the authority of officers from other agencies so that they can be brought in to serve if necessary. The biggest concern he has is the available resources. When we have the 4th of July celebration it takes every sworn officer available. When the 1985-1986 Sand Castle event occurred his department doubled its size to police the event. There was no other event going on in the area, and it was not during August. The Pinellas County Sheriff's office will be sending approximately 100 officers to Tampa. The St. Petersburg Police Department will be sending approximately 75 officers. The City of Clearwater is not sending any officers as they have concerns about what could happen on their beach. As it stands right now, if nothing changes, the agencies that he just mentioned will not be able to supplement our officers in any way. To date the RNC has reserved 400 hotel rooms in Treasure Island, 1300 in St. Pete Beach. We anticipate dignitary attendance. All of the law enforcement agencies will play a part at the hotels. Officers will be expected to stay at the hotels 24/7, which will remove those officers from details. We have never had anything like the RNC beach event being proposed. We are uncertain as to how many people will be here. If it takes 18-20 police officers to

handle that many on the beach for five hours it will take that much more to patrol during the heavy times. We have to plan today for what is going to happen in August. He took great pains to write his memo as factually as he could with what he knows today. He will not speak for the fire, medical, or public works services needed. There will be marine issues. All of the resources that we go to for help will be unavailable. We have to maintain public safety. No one knows what will happen in terms of protesters. They will go where dignitaries and their families are staying. It is their intent to block bridges and access to the facilities. There does not seem to be any indication or expectation that the available resources will change. Pinellas County has requested that towns that they provide contract services to not allow any events related to the RNC during the time that it is here, for the same reasons. All of the Pinellas County Police Chiefs are on board with this as it will affect Pinellas County. He has submitted a recommendation to not have the event during the period of the RNC. His responsibility is public safety. If he had the officers available, or a source to draw them from he would support it, but he doesn't.

Commissioner Bildz asked how Chief Casey got the numbers regarding the hotel reservations. Chief Casey stated that it came from the agency planning the event.

Commissioner Coward asked if Chief Casey had spoken with Bradenton and Sarasota to see if they have officers available. Chief Casey stated that Tampa will likely pull from those agencies as well. Commissioner Coward stated that we don't have a clear understanding of where we could get officers, and they should be asked.

Commissioner Bildz asked how many officers an event like this would require. Chief Casey stated that they would probably need fifteen more.

Mayor Minning stated that it will have the same type of numbers that Sanding Ovations draws. Chief Casey stated that it will likely be more than Sanding Ovations but less than the sand castle event held in the 1980s. He took the numbers from the information given by the Chamber. Mayor Minning asked if it was a good comparison of the event over a seven day period. Chief Casey stated that during any of the Sanding Ovation times there was not a major event going on in Tampa. The hotels didn't have the same occupancy rates going on in August as is expected. You don't want to figure low, and you don't want to go overboard. Mayor Minning stated that they did a great job in handling the crowds at the Sanding Ovations event, and this event should draw approximately the same number of people. If they are comparable events, what is the difference? Mr. Silverboard stated that there is a public safety concern that we don't have with Sanding Ovations. We might have protesters that we need police presence for. Sanding Ovations takes place during the slowest time of the year for hotel occupancy. We don't know what to expect. The public safety concern is different.

Commissioner Coward stated that the difference that she sees is that these people will come in, see the sand sculptures, go to the restaurants and see Treasure Island, and be bused back to the convention. She doesn't think they will see the unruliness. She was in Denver during the Democratic Convention and she didn't see the things discussed tonight. She feels that we haven't explored where we can draw other officers from. Chief Casey stated that the issue is that we have to make a commitment now. Commissioner Coward stated that we don't know if we don't ask the question. Chief Casey stated that we won't know for a few months what availability will be. We can call anyone and ask if they will send someone and how much it will cost, but they will want a commitment. They would not be able to answer whether they are available for August yet.

Commissioner Collins asked for clarification of the number of additional officers that would be needed. Chief Casey clarified that we would need fifteen additional officers, and we are still two officers short. Commissioner Collins asked if it was possible to get a commitment from other agencies for the officers now. Chief Casey stated that many places could not answer that now. Other agencies would want a commitment and a contract now. Commissioner Collins asked if we could have another community sign a contract now. Chief Casey stated that we probably could. We would have to pay their salaries, room and board, travel expenses. Commissioner Collins asked if it would be possible to get a contract in place now. Chief Casey answered in the affirmative. Mr. Silverboard stated that it boils down to money and who is paying for it. Commissioner Collins stated that we need to find out where the money is coming from to pay for these officers, and once we have that answer we could bring them in. Mr. Silverboard stated that either the Commission and city would have to commit to it, or the organizers would have to commit to it. We would have to find the agencies that might be available. Commissioner Collins stated that we have to find out the cost and who is going to pay for those people. Once that is in place we can find them. Mayor Minning stated that we have to find out what agencies could provide personnel, and the cost of providing it, and then we can find the funding. Chief Casey stated that he could call and get an estimate from other agencies. Commissioner Collins suggested that he get that information, and then find out who is willing to pay for it. We will also have to figure out how to fund trash and any other services that will be necessary. Mr. Silverboard stated that we have nothing budgeted for this event.

Commissioner Coward stated that she doesn't feel that this report is complete as we don't know what the costs will be. Mayor Minning clarified that if the Chief had enough staff he would be in support of this. Chief Casey answered in the affirmative. Commissioner Bildz stated that he would like a good estimate of the number of additional officers needed.

Bill Edwards stated that he is the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce. They worked over eight or nine months to come to them with a total plan. We have a town that we need people to come here and know that we are here. If we can get 1% of the press to write about Treasure Island it would be a home run. If we can get 4,000 – 5,000 people here in a day it would be a home run. This event is to be privately funded. We need to let people know that we have a beach out here. This is a historical situation. The sand castle isn't going to save the world, but is a nice touch to get tourism here. There will be 3,000 delegates from all the states, 3,000 alternate delegates, and 15,000 press who will be downtown. It is privately funded. We have the funds to do it. We have a plan to make it safe. This isn't something that will be costing the city money. He hopes that it will be something that will be good for the city.

Harry Black stated that Treasure Island has 400 rooms committed to the RNC. August is when the kids go back to school. That is when the rates are the lowest and the hotels are empty. They expect most of the people that will come to see the sand sculptures to come during the day. He doesn't see them getting 50,000 people in any one day. We are not going to have fireworks. We think that this is going to be as busy as some of the sand sculpture events that we have out here. He stated that this event is not sanctioned by the Republican National Convention. He would like to keep this as non-political as can be. It will be privately funded. He read a prepared statement regarding the purpose of the Chamber of Commerce and the reasons for supporting this event. He made comments addressing the concerns of the city staff.

Commissioner Bildz asked about the event being held by the City of Clearwater that Mr. Black mentioned. Mr. Black stated that they have heard that they will be holding a sand sculpture event there.

Commissioner Coward stated that she thinks that we need to make this work. There are concerns, but nothing is insurmountable. It would be a boon for the restaurants and hotels. We should work together. Mr. Black stated that if we don't have problems with the weather, September of 2012 will be a record setting time for the businesses. They are going to get two tents and use 3,000 tons of sand.

Tom Bauer thanked Chief Casey for his report. He feels that it was very well covered. He stated that times have changed since the 1980s. Traffic patterns have changed, and the bridges are brand new. He commended the Police Chief for the job he did in handling the issues at Sunset Beach this year. The city handled it well. The 1980s sand sculpture was done in April, which is high season. August is quiet and we could use the business. He stated that there are 15 or 20 officers that would love to come to Treasure Island. He and his wife are requesting that the City Commission approve the plan, and also invest in it.

Ken Jones, President and CEO of the Republican National Convention, was asked to make some comments by Bill Edwards. This is an amazing opportunity. This event is the second largest media event in the world. The only event bigger is the Olympics. They should do this event. He would suggest to any community that they do a sand sculpture event. The original name of the host committee was the Tampa Host Committee, but was changed to the Tampa Bay Host Committee. They will be missing out if they don't take advantage of this opportunity. The other four cities that he was involved with didn't do a great job in doing some special things. He urged the Commission to do it.

Mayor Minning asked how the delegates spend their days. Mr. Jones stated that there are approximately 5,800 delegates. The alternate delegates have much more free time than the regular delegates. All events occur in the evening. During the day the delegates and their families are looking for things to do. He thinks people would be interested in coming to see the sand sculptures. If the weather cooperates they would have a good showing of the delegates, VIPs, and media.

Jody Armstrong stated that she echoes all the other comments regarding the opportunities. She thanked Chief Casey for his report so that his concerns can be addressed.

Joe Jimenez stated that he is the Managing Director of the Club at Treasure Island and Crystal Palms. He is excited for the opportunity to bring this event to Treasure Island. Other communities would love the Chamber of Commerce to come to them with this type of event. They are doing events in Orlando during this event. They have an opportunity here to do something special. They have a committed Chamber of Commerce. They should be able to work out the concerns.

Bob Weber stated that he came here to learn about what is going on with this. It will be a signature event and they will be foolish not to go along with it. They should address the issue with the police officers right away. Concerns will be addressed by the Chamber's security force. It will be great for the citizens and businesses of Treasure Island.

Peggy Wangler stated that she is excited about the opportunities that this will bring to the community. She encouraged the commission to work with the Chamber to get this done.

Jimmy Dean stated that he is the General Manager of a local hotel. He thinks that this is a great opportunity. The amount of publicity and recognition that we can get isn't about the immediate dollars. It is about the future. There are a lot of people who have never heard of Treasure Island. We live in one of the most beautiful paradises in the world. Once they discover us they will come back. We will make money for years down the road because of this event.

Commissioner Caldwell asked how the private security force would affect the numbers that Chief Casey feels that we would need. Chief Casey stated that at the time that he wrote his memo he didn't have all of the information. The security staff is limited in what they can do, and his concerns would need to be addressed by police officers. We have never had two events at the same time, so there is a lot of unknown. He doesn't feel that it would reduce the number of officers needed. He still feels comfortable with the 7,000 – 8,000 number per day. He will look into the availability of officers. He doesn't feel that it will affect the number of officers that he thinks they will need. The information he gave is based on what is known right now. He supports anything that helps the community. He just wants to be sure that public safety is considered. Commissioner Caldwell stated that we are busing people to and from the convention. They are relatively contained in a small area. When she hears about the security that will be provided, it doesn't make sense to her that they would need so many additional officers. She asked that he look at it again. Chief Casey agreed to look at this again based on the information given tonight.

Commissioner Collins stated that he doesn't think that the Chief is concerned with the participants of the RNC. He is concerned about the other affects. Commissioner Bildz stated that he agrees. Chief Casey stated that that was correct. We don't have all the known facts as we have never had this type of situation in the past. Commissioner Collins stated that we can figure out some of these other things.

Ms. Hayduke stated that we don't know what will happen on those additional weekends. This event is open to the public. Commissioner Coward stated that what we are trying to achieve here is to bring people to Treasure Island. Ms. Hayduke stated that they have the beach covered with their security. The unknowns are the police coverage needed for traffic, and for beyond the convention event. Mr. Black stated that he thought the additional officers would be needed for the people picketing. Chief Casey stated that it was for all of it.

Commissioner Bildz asked if there was anyone here that does the sand sculpting. There was not. Commissioner Bildz asked that they workshop this again when they have better numbers. Mayor Minning stated that they could get the answers before the meeting and still move it forward.

Mayor Minning asked that all their questions be answered before the next meeting. Commissioner Collins stated that the Chamber can answer these questions before the next meeting. Mr. Silverboard stated that he would get their answers in writing so that it can be incorporated into a staff report and resolution. There may be other questions that come up.

Commissioner Bildz stated that there is a big difference between the Chamber request and the public works department response. Ms. Hayduke suggested that she meet with Mr. Black and get the answers to those questions. There are still unknowns regarding the dates and when services are being requested. She feels that she can come to them with the costs. Commissioner Bildz asked to workshop this again after the questions are answered. Ms. Hayduke stated that they should move forward on the DEP permit as none of it can happen

unless it is approved. She suggested that they still try to come back with a cost. They need direction so that they know whether to proceed.

This item will move forward to the next meeting agenda.

3. Consideration of Res. 12-05, approving amendments to the License Agreement with Brent Palmer of Oceanus Slides to provide a water slide and rock climbing wall with mobile air jumper, modifying hours and days of operations and providing term of the license agreement

Ms. Hayduke stated that Mr. Palmer was approved last year and started Memorial weekend with his water slide. He has some ideas to increase the activities and the revenues. The unit he is requesting does not have to be permitted because they are portable and can be removed from the beach. Mr. Palmer has suggested selling hats and other items, as well as providing transportation from the hotels. The city staff is not recommending those two items. He is also asking to extend the dates of his operation. She recommends approval of a three year contract with the option to extend, as well as allowing him to operate year round.

Commissioner Collins asked how quickly his operation could be cleared off the beach in the event of a weather emergency. Mr. Palmer stated that his insurance requires him to remove equipment three days prior to an anticipated storm.

Commissioner Coward asked why Ms. Hayduke is not recommending that he be allowed to sell items. Ms. Hayduke stated that she is trying to be consistent as they have received many requests for vending. They also try not to compete with the local businesses. Commissioner Coward asked how the Friday Market differs. Mr. Silverboard stated that it is a Chamber sponsored event.

Commissioner Bildz stated that he didn't think selling Oceanus t-shirts would be taking away from the businesses. Commissioner Bildz asked where the equipment would be stored when removed from the beach. Mr. Palmer stated that it would be stored on private property. Commissioner Bildz asked why the contract isn't left open ended. Ms. Hayduke stated that Mr. Palmer is putting in a significant investment and would like some security. It is the same agreement that we have with Taylor Rentals. Commissioner Bildz stated that he isn't opposed to this, and would not be opposed to him selling his own t-shirts.

Commissioner Collins asked about the private property where the equipment is stored. Mr. Palmer explained the location.

This item will move forward to the next meeting agenda.

4. Consideration of Res. 12-03, approving a supplemental budget amendment from the police forfeiture fund for the purchase of traffic crash investigation equipment

Lieutenant Boudreau gave a brief explanation of the item. They are requesting spending money out of the forfeiture fund to purchase two pieces of traffic crash investigation equipment. It will soon be mandated that the measurements will have to be done electronically. The equipment is similar to survey equipment. It provides a three dimensional diagram. It can also be used at a crime scene. It is reflectorless, which means that you can use a pointing device. He gave a brief description of the two pieces of equipment that they want to purchase. He gave some statistical information on some of the incidents that have occurred in the past few years.

Mayor Minning asked what they are doing now with this. Lieutenant Boudreau stated that they contract with the Sheriff's office as needed. They are hoping to get another officer trained to assist Officer Taylor with these investigations.

Commissioner Coward asked how much was currently in the police forfeiture fund. Lieutenant Boudreau stated that he doesn't know the exact amount, but it is over the amount needed.

This item will move forward to the next meeting agenda.

5. Consideration of Res. 12-04, approving the purchase of two new police patrol vehicles budgeted in the FY 2011-12 Budget

Lieutenant Boudreau gave a brief explanation of this item. At the time the budget was put together they had anticipated purchasing two Ford Explorers. Ford is introducing a Ford Interceptor in an SUV version, which is built on the same platform as the Explorer. It is built specifically for law enforcement. He was able to drive the car on a test track and was unable to make the vehicle fail. The base price is \$100 less than the Explorer 4x4. They are getting a lot more car for about the same money. They are going into production this month. If approved, they will place the order when the resolution is approved, and can receive delivery in April. They would be the first department in the area to have them. The fuel economy is better than the Ford Explorer. There are advancements that are specifically designed for police officers. They can transition a lot of the equipment from the old cars that are being traded in. Some pieces can't be moved, but they were able to stay within the range. Bartow Ford is willing to take the cars in trade, and they feel that they are receiving more than they would receive at auction. They are offering \$18,500 back for the two cars that are being traded in. There is a lot of time spent in getting the cars ready for auction, and there is a 10% auction fee charged. We will have two cars ready within five days of the delivery. It would take the public works crew several weeks to get the cars ready to go to auction. There is less expense up front to the city, and much less time needed.

Commissioner Collins asked if the miles on the vehicles were engine miles. Lieutenant Boudreau stated that it was just engine miles. They have not bought cars in four years, and they are behind in their fleet. They are all wheel drive vehicles. Commissioner Collins asked if the vehicles being replaced were all wheel drives. Lieutenant Boudreau stated that they are four wheel drives. Commissioner Collins asked for an explanation of several items on the specification list for the cars. Lieutenant Boudreau explained what they were and their purpose. Commissioner Collins stated that he has reservations about replacing a vehicle with 110,000 miles. Mr. Silverboard stated that it doesn't include the idle time, and you cannot compare a civilian vehicle with a police vehicle. Commissioner Collins asked about the equation for idle time. Lieutenant Boudreau stated that it is 33 miles per hour of idle time. He stated that most of the cars have in excess of 3,000 idle hours. That equates to another 100,000 miles.

Commissioner Coward stated that she thinks it is great that we are saving \$18,000 in the LOISS fund.

Commissioner Collins stated that there are certain times of the year that the auctions bring in more money than others. There is a strong market for police vehicles.

Commissioner Bildz stated that he is happy that they are headed in the right direction on gas mileage.

This item will move forward to the next meeting agenda.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Coward asked if we had final numbers on the financials. Mr. Silverboard stated that they have completed the field work and are now doing the audit adjustments. The audit will be presented to the Commission at the second meeting in March. Commissioner Coward asked if they would be getting a financial update as of September 30th before March. Mr. Silverboard stated that they would not. Commissioner Coward stated that they have decisions coming up and she wants to base it on good information. Mr. Silverboard stated that they will not have the final figures until March. Commissioner Coward stated that she doesn't mean the audit; she means the figures after adjustments. Mayor Minning asked Mr. Silverboard to check with the Finance Director about this.

Commissioner Bildz stated that the alcohol regulations take effect in February. He asked that a map be put up in the bulletin board in Sunset Beach. Mr. Silverboard stated that something will be put up.

Commissioner Coward asked for an update of some of the improvements. Mr. Silverboard stated that he has provided them with some information, and has some additional information that he will e-mail to them this week.

III. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Ms. Kiefer stated that she has nothing to report tonight, but will update them as soon as she has further information.

Mr. Silverboard gave a preliminary major project update. He will e-mail an updated report later in the week.

Commissioner Collins asked if the continuation of CERT was discussed with Chief Mallory. Mr. Silverboard stated that it is his understanding that the CERT team and volunteers want to continue. He will be discussing it with Chief Mallory.

Commissioner Coward asked for clarification on the cost of the bike trail being under \$10,000. Mr. Silverboard stated that the engineering will be under \$10,000.

IV. REPORTS & COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Bildz stated that the Sunset Beach Civic Association meeting will be held next Monday night.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

The workshop was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. by Mayor Minning.

