

Recap of the Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting August 22, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 A.M. by Chairman Anthony Arena. The members in attendance were: Chairman Anthony Arena, Greg Truax, Don Coryell, Vincent Tafuro, Calvin Johnson, Jeffrey Rhodes, Miller Dowdy, and Gaye Townsend. Members absent were: Vice Chairman Jim Mills, Anne Madden, Bea Black, Kay Doughty, and Mark Snellgrove. One seat is vacant. Staff in attendance: Brandon Wagner. A quorum was present.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mr. Tafuro, followed by introductions by each member. Mr. Dowdy explained the role and responsibilities of the CAC for the viewing audience.

Meeting Recap – The recap of the July 25, 2008, meeting was moved by Mr. Tafuro, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, and approved unanimously. Mr. Truax clarified that he requested a presentation by the Committee of 100 at a future date, which was acknowledged by staff.

Public Comment #1 – David Brown spoke to thank the CAC for nominating him for the 2008 Moral Courage Award, and briefly described his work on water backflow prevention devices.

Presentation by Management and Budget Director Eric Johnson – Mr. Johnson spoke to the operating and maintenance costs associated with the Board's approved FY 09-13 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) of \$150 million, approximately \$81 million of which is from property taxes. The remaining costs are met via user fees. Mr. Johnson then provided an update on the BOCC's actions in the budget process. He explained that the county was projected to begin the second year of the budget cycle with a \$117 budget deficit due to implementation of Amendment #1, and statewide economic difficulties. The BOCC had previously set aside \$30 million in anticipation of such a scenario, leaving an actual deficit of \$87 million. Mr. Johnson then described the County Administrator's recommended budget cuts, and the BOCC's budget reconciliation process. He also noted that the BOCC authorized a millage reduction for the upcoming year, and announced that two public hearings were scheduled for September for citizen input on the proposed budget. Mr. Johnson provided three handouts pertaining to his presentation.

Presentation by Solid Waste Department Director Barry Boldissar – Mr. Boldissar began by describing the process for collecting and processing solid waste in Hillsborough County - noting that 66% of solid waste services are contracted out to the private sector. He explained that the Solid Waste Department is funded through customer fees billed annually as a non-advalorem assessment on property tax bills. Mr. Boldissar detailed the function and environmental safety requirements of the county's Waste-to-Energy facility. He noted that Hillsborough County's landfill has approximately 38 years of available capacity at current solid waste generating levels. Mr. Boldissar distributed two handouts and made a PowerPoint presentation as part of his remarks.

Presentation by Economic Development Director Gene Gray – Due to time constraints, Mr. Gray agreed to present at a future meeting.

Discussion of County Mayor Presentation – Chairman Arena explained that Ms. Stiles was available to make a presentation at the August meeting, but Ms. Platt was not due to surgery. He also noted that the proposed amendment had been stricken from the November ballot by the court, but that the decision was under appeal. Mr. Dowdy moved to re-schedule the presentation to September or October, and the earlier of the two if the appeal restores the initiative to the ballot. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnson. The vote was 6-1, with Mr. Tafuro voting no.

Other Business – None.

Public Comment #2 – None.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.