


To: Mayor Walter B. Duke, III
Vice Mayor Chickie Brandimarte
Commissioner Bobbie H. Grace
Commissioner Albert C. Jones

From: Robert Baldwin, City Manager 

Date: January 8, 2014

RE: Oasis Program – Third Element

The City's Oasis Program to reduce crime and revitalize our neighborhoods is progressing. Your commitment to this program is having a very positive impact that will have a profound long-term effect on the City.

You will recall the Oasis Program's first element is a beautification project in a targeted neighborhood. The project is followed up by an operational service element including law enforcement, code compliance, bulk trash removal, volunteerism, et al. These two elements have been implemented and are currently underway.

The following is a brief outline of the current status of the Oasis Program:

Oasis I – SW 3RD Avenue

- Project complete
- Operations underway
- Completed 1st volunteer clean-up day

Oasis II – SW 28th Terrace

- Project complete
- Operation underway
- Volunteer clean-up day planned for spring

Oasis III – SW 24th Avenue (CDBG)

- Project complete
- Volunteer clean-up day planned for spring

Oasis IV – SE 2nd Street

- Project partially complete (balance via southeast stormwater project)
- Volunteer clean-up day planned for spring

Oasis V – NE 1st Court & NE 2nd Avenue (CDBG)

- Authorized to bid

Oasis VI – SW 4th Street & SW 9th Street

- Authorized to bid

Oasis VII – NW 11th Avenue

- Authorized to bid

Oasis VIII – Melaleuca Gardens Entrance

- Under design

For your information, we wanted to make you aware of our application to the Broward Sheriff's Office for \$150,000 to fund one Oasis project through Law Enforcement Trust Funds. Sheriff Scott Israel told me he would look favorably upon our application. The process, however, is highly competitive.

You will recall that one way we have reduced our Oasis project costs is by engaging the assistance of FAU students in designing each project. In support of our LETF application to BSO, Dr. Fred Bloetscher has agreed to allow local high school students to work along side his FAU students when designing our project. Exposing high school students to the process will introduce them to future college majors, careers, and civic involvement.

Third Element

Part of the revitalization of our neighborhoods is improving the quality of housing and encouraging single-family, owner-occupied homes. Dania Beach's home ownership rate is just 57.3%, a full ten percent lower than the Broward County average of 68.1%. A resident who owns and occupies his/her home is likely to maintain the property and be active in protecting the neighborhood.

Tonight we are requesting conceptual approval of a third element of the Oasis program that will authorize staff to develop a program to construct new or renovate single-family, owner-occupied homes on selected City-owned properties.

This element will help:

1. Remove deteriorating buildings and unkempt properties.
2. Increase upscale homes and property values in our neighborhoods.
3. Increase owner-occupied, single-family homes in our City.
4. Provide crime-resistant, high-quality homes to complement our neighborhood revitalization efforts.
5. Provide a cost neutral program, as the homes will be constructed and sold on properties already owned by the City.

We propose borrowing \$500,000 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to be placed in a special restricted account to be used for costs attendant to home design, construction, and sale. The proceeds of the sale of the home would be used to reimburse the account and repay the loan from the reserve.

If the Commission concurs, staff will work out the details of this third home-construction element and bring it back for your formal approval.