



ANNUAL CITIZEN'S ROUNDTABLE FOCUSES ON IMPORTANT ISSUES

Residents were invited to participate in discussions on issues involving the City and its government at the Annual Citizen's Roundtable held on January 25, 2011 at Old School Square. This meeting focused on bringing the community together to help build relationships, identify solutions and explore new opportunities for growth.

Mayor Nelson "Woodie" McDuffie opened the meeting and introduced Planning and Zoning Chairperson John Miller, who presented a comprehensive review of 2010 development and historic preservation projects. Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Chairperson Howard Lewis introduced the CRA's 25th Anniversary video, a retrospective on the progress made by this agency during the past twenty-five years. Afterwards, City Manager David Harden delivered the State of the City Address, which included an assessment of completed projects in 2010, a review of the City's Budget challenge and a summary of goals for 2011.



Deputy Vice-Mayor Angeleta Gray observes a group discussion during Annual Citizen's Roundtable

Participants were asked to identify, in writing, infrastructure deficiencies in neighborhoods, business locations and other areas throughout the City that should be addressed (i.e. sidewalks, drainage issues, sewer or water main related items, street lighting, repairs, signage and resurfacing). These responses will be included in the record of the Planning and Zoning Board at a Public Hearing to be held on March 21, 2011.

Tracy Miller, Florida Regional Director – Alliance for Innovation, facilitated group conversations designed to create an exchange of thoughts and ideas on City issues. Ms. Miller posed three (3) questions to the attendees on issues that related to the current and future state of the City. Responses were provided verbally and in writing (see a selection of the responses below). In addition, questions were asked on a variety of topics using new polling technology that produced immediate feedback from participants.

The three (3) main questions were:

1. What is going on in the City that affects you most as a citizen of Delray Beach?

Parking Problem Downtown. City Pensions. Loss of Revenue Therefore Increased Taxes. Increased Traffic. Number of Sober Houses and Pain Clinics. Local Businesses Closing. Foreclosed Homes. Overdevelopment. Need for Community Redevelopment in the NW/SW Area. Lack of Jobs. Weak Economy.

2. What City services are most important to preserving a high quality of life in Delray Beach?

Public Safety (Police and Fire-Rescue). Public Works – Streets/Roads/Water. Libraries, Art, Culture, Events. Opportunities for Youth. Volunteers. More Green Space. Street and Beach Maintenance. Code Enforcement. Planning and Zoning. Parks and Recreation. Clean and Safe Downtown. Recycling.

3. What services could we sacrifice if we could no longer pay for all services provided by the City?

Reduce Trash Pick-up to Once Per Week. Manage Fuel Costs Better. Eliminate Downtown Roundabout Shuttle Service. Increase Number of Paid Parking Spaces Downtown. Reduce Redundancy in Service Levels. Freeze/Decrease Parks and Recreation Personnel. Discontinue Special Events. Do Not Eliminate Any Services - Raise Taxes Instead.

To view the 2011 Annual Citizen's Roundtable presentations and video, visit www.mydelraybeach.com and select 2011 State of the City of Delray Beach. For more information, contact the Public Information Office at (561) 243-7190.

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Mando de Animales
Depatman Ki An Chaj Zannimo

Police Department 243-7888

Departamento de la Policía
Depatmin Polis

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Parque de Bomberos
Depatman pou Dife

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PROJECTS, UPDATES & REMINDERS



Neighborhood Stabilization Program Grant Update - In 2010, the City received a \$1.9 million Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) grant award from the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA). This funding is part of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, intended to purchase foreclosed or abandoned homes to stabilize neighborhoods and stop declining home values. In addition, the Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) contributed \$400,000 to this program. As of January 2011, the City has obligated \$1.9 million for the purchase and rehabilitation of fifteen (15) foreclosed homes. Five (5) of these properties have been rehabilitated and sold (three of these homes have been sold to the Delray Beach Housing Authority for rentals to very low income residents), another five (5) are being rehabilitated and the remaining five (5) are being prepared for redevelopment. This program benefits low, moderate and median income households and funds from all sales are reinvested back into the program for community redevelopment. For more information, please contact Nigel Roberts, Neighborhood Services Administrator, at (561) 243-7280 or E-mail robertspn@mydelraybeach.com.

Hometown Connection Annual Report - The City is pleased to announce that its Hometown Connection Annual Report 2011 Edition is now available electronically and in printed hardcopy. The 12-page publication provides an in-depth review of the City's achievements in 2010 and details the innovative approach that Delray Beach utilizes to sustain a strong and vibrant community. Results from The National Citizen Survey are included in this report, which summarizes how residents rate the City in a variety of categories such as quality of services, place to live and public safety. Residents can also learn how the City is expanding its sustainable and green efforts and what strategies have been implemented to remain fiscally sound during these challenging economic times. To access the Hometown Connection Annual Report 2011 Edition online, visit www.mydelraybeach.com and select *Newsletters* on the home page. Printed copies are also available at City Hall, 100 NW 1st Avenue, the Community Center, 50 NW 1st Avenue, the Delray Beach Public Library, 100 West Atlantic Avenue and the Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce, 64A SE 5th Avenue. For more information, call (561) 243-7190.

U.S. 1 Corridor Enhancement Project: Narrowing Design - Engineering currently is in the design phase with regards to the permanent improvements on northbound and southbound Federal Highway from SE 10th Street to NE 8th Street. The design plans are expected to be completed by August 2011. Construction of these improvements, which include widening of sidewalks, bicycle lanes and additional landscaping, is scheduled to begin in March 2012. Studies conducted by the City's consulting firm have shown that this project will reduce traffic accidents, enhance pedestrian safety and contribute to the beautification of a major downtown thoroughfare.

Adopt-A-Street Program - This program promotes civic pride while helping to address the problem of roadside litter. Residents, businesses and civic groups "adopt" a portion or an entire City street and agree to pick up litter at least four (4) times a year. The adopting individual and/or organization contributes to making Delray Beach a green and sustainable environment by improving the quality of life through litter prevention, clean streets and well-maintained neighborhoods. For more information on this environmental and earth-friendly initiative, contact the City's Litter Prevention Coordinator, Jennifer Buce, at (561) 243-7138 or by E-mail buce@mydelraybeach.com.

DID YOU KNOW...

Rainfall is our region's primary source for replenishing our limited freshwater supply. Because 2010 rainfall amounts were far below average, ground (wellfields and aquifers) and surface (lakes, rivers and canals) water levels are low. Long-term weather forecasts for 2011 envision continuing below-average rainfall leading to great strains on our water supplies. With the dry season still ahead, water conservation is increasingly critical. Help protect our water supply. For more information, visit www.sfwmd.gov.