

**Historic Jackson Ward Association
Membership Meeting
January 16, 2007**

President of the Historic Jackson Ward Association, Charles Finley opened the meeting. After introductions of attendees, he introduced Charlie Agee of Philip Morris, USA.

Charlie Agee, PM, USA

Mr. Agee, of the PMUSA Research and Technology Center expressed how pleased PMUSA is to get to know their neighbors as they continue with the construction of their new Research and Development Center here in Jackson Ward. He discussed the organization's support of the Second Street Festival, the Black History Museum and the neighborhood beautification projects. He further stated the support extended to the overall beautification of the Jackson Ward area and he presented HJWA with a check for \$40,000, granted based on the proposal submitted to PMUSA for gateway signage. Mr. Agee introduced Greg Elsten who will continue the activities of Paige Magness.

Jackson Place Development

Anthony Scott, Interim Executive Director of Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority, stated that the Jackson Place Development efforts have been in place for a while. The Mayor's Task Force on Infrastructure proposed two new zoning codes for the area of planned development. Mr. Scott identified the collaboration of the Better Housing Coalition and Trammel Crowe Residential developed the housing proposal that RRHA chose for the Jackson Place project. **T.K. Somanath, Executive Director of the Better Housing Coalition** believes working together as a community can raise the standards of workforce and senior housing. **John Grier of Trammel Crowe Residential**, an organization made up of local-based partnerships impressed by the "sense of neighborhood" believes the development of Jackson Place will become the hinge between economic development and the Second Street corridor. Mr. Grier mentioned that there is still the Club 533 to consider. He further stated what is missing is high quality luxury rental property that leads to the Second Street corridor, bringing more folk willing to spend money in the community. The hotel depicted in the proposal was not included in the ULI study. However, the hotel will be under the umbrella of the Hilton and Starwood brands with 140-150 rooms. Mr. Somanath has developed over 1,000 different types of housing to complement the architecture of the area. An example of Mr. Somanath's work is located at 23rd and Jefferson Streets in Churchill. This proposal will make Second Street a two-way street. The developers plan a technical study to consider how to route the busses and other issues related to having Second Street traffic travel two ways. The plan is to build multi-family units on Second Street as the anchor of the project. It will house 240 units of rental housing for a variety of incomes based on market rate. The Better Housing Coalition identified as having "a strong management" arm will manage these units.

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Mr. Somanath suggests creating a "steering" committee. That committee will provide community-related input as this project progresses. Marilyn Milio, Leighton Powell, Ron

Stallings, Andy Nelson, Demmie Murray and Ben Wright volunteered to serve on this steering committee. The zoning will take some time to work out any kinks with the developers. Brooke Hardin, a member of the Mayor's Task Force was available to answer any other questions about the zoning plan.

Lt. Gary Ladin, R.P.D., Sector 413

Lt. Ladin reports that violent crime is down by 50%, individual robberies are down 70%. There were two motor vehicle thefts, no reports of property crimes. After the second search of 100 W. Leigh St., the property is now up for sale. CAPS is now involved in the properties in the 600 block of 1st Street. Members inform Lt. Ladin that graffiti crime is up. Drug deals are being squelched, as there seems to be a concentration of heroin deals at 2nd and Broad Streets. Stratton Metals has been calling the police when metals of questionable origin come into the business. Super cans are accumulating under the bridge.

Bill Pantele, Second District Council Representative/President of Council

Mr. Pantele commended the number in attendance and the good questions asked of the developers. He provided his cell phone number, 677-4900, e-mail address, HYPERLINK "mailto:bpantele@gmail.com" bpantele@gmail.com and his assistant, Jan Girardi's number, at 646-6532. He suggested that we use the citizen's "Request for Services" link on the city's web site to file complaints or issues regarding the neighborhood. This city administration is working off those reports that come from the city website. Lastly, Mr. Pantele reported that the Richmond Convention Center is doing all right and is thinking about its next expansion.

Charles Finley, HJWA Board President

Mr. Finley stated that the Armory is not a dead issue. Ron Stallings reported that the Purpose Committee met last week to discuss meetings with the Black History Museum, the Freedman's Project as well as intentions, uses and the building's capacity. His company, Walker Row, has offered its support.

Tripp Longest needs help on the Signage Committee. Other announcements included:

Vicki Mollenaur is designing HJWA T-shirts, red with black lettering, working on brochures and looking at older Jackson Ward design. Beautification Day is tentatively scheduled for April 21, 2007 and Capital One wants to do a clean up day.

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Newly elected board members have been busy working on various projects. Bill McGee an established musician accomplished in theory and possessing a unique style, has released a new jazz CD. It is definitely worth a listen.

JoAnn Braxton-Lee and Marilyn Milio are putting their talents and efforts into the Jackson Ward newsletter. A prototype, reviewed by the Board, looks great. It is expected that the first edition will be hand delivered. They are currently accepting ads for the newsletter.

Membership dues are due this month; \$10/membership and \$20 for community businesses.

Technology Resource Connections is offering introduction to computer classes at the Adult Career Development Center. The classes are \$20 and HJWA us committed to provide scholarships to some individuals who cannot pay.

Respectfully submitted,

Demmie Murray, Secretary
HJWA Board of Directors

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