

**HJWA Membership Meeting**  
**March 18, 2008**

Meeting opened by Charles Finley, Board President and initiated introductions of board members and guest presenters.

Review of Minutes from January 2008 membership meeting.

**HJWA Annual Report for 2007:** The report was distributed. It includes a year-end financial report and reviews of all activities in 2007. Additional copies are available for distribution this evening.

**Lt. Lisa Drew RPD Sector 413** extends a thank you to those who came out on the neighborhood walk last Saturday. There were give-away prizes of bike helmets and car clubs. She asked that people turn in the surveys that were distributed during the walk and e-mailed to everyone. Leighton will resend the survey giving everyone the opportunity to provide feedback on the surveys. The mounted officers, along with the drug officers, are making some good arrests. The ABC board will also do some undercover work. A meeting was held with the Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC) concerning the bus stops. There has been a 29% decrease in crime with one violent crime involving a homeless man who was assaulted had had his drugs stolen. There were three (3) shoplifting incidents and three (3) thefts from cars. Lt. Drew reminded everyone to remember to lock your cars and remove anything that is visible. There is a new initiative/campaign called, "Put your junk in your trunk." There was one auto theft. She reminded everyone that spring break usually brings a spike in crime by juveniles.

**City of Richmond councilman/President of the City Council, Bill Pantele:** Extends special thanks to Lt. Drew for the fine job she and her officers are doing and Jackson Ward is "lucky" to have her a part of our partnership. He urged everyone to call the non-emergency RPD number, 646-5100, if we see anything suspicious or out of the ordinary. The city is now entering the budget development phase. He and Council are trying to bring the real estate tax rate down. Utilities in the city are also becoming higher than the surrounding counties and there also appeared that there were some problems with the rate scheduling. The City Administration made a proposal for a small decrease. There is a lot of discussion about the school buildings that are, on average, 65 years old. Richmond's economy is moving along steadily moving along and revenues are up. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are being watched closely along with what's happening in Gilpin Court. The HJWA and Councilman Pantele has made a point, on several occasions, that this Association needs to be at the proposal review committee table to review proposals submitted to perform development in the Jackson Ward community. Councilman Pantele acknowledges he's heard the idea of a dog park in the area. He reminds everyone to attend his 2<sup>nd</sup> District meeting on

3/26/08 at the Hermitage on Westwood Avenue from 6-8 p.m.

**City Lights Partnership** will hold kick-off of its second year of operation on April 12, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Abner Clay Park. It's important to get everyone out to see what has been happening with the partnership. David Harris has been contracted by Capital One to evaluate the City Lights partnership. Capital One has contributed funds to carry out some activities for the community of Jackson Ward. The HJWA is interested in any, and all, ideas citizens have for community-oriented activities, projects that fit within our strategic plan. Mr. Harris has been interviewing members of the HJWA board and other residents to evaluate the impact of the City Lights funds and the partner agencies that are working together. RRHA, utilizing Capital One funds to renovate a house located at 308 W. Leigh Street.

**Communication/Feedback/Meeting Attendance:** HJWA Chair, Charles Finley stressed to those present how important it is to respond to e-mails, etc. that are sent related to Jackson Ward issues and activities. He further stated that a lot of information goes out to a sizeable list of individuals on our mailing list. This information is sent to ensure that residents are involved with, and aware of, activities that affect you and your families. In addition, the membership meetings are not that well-attended unless there is a hot-button issue like parking, taxes, etc. We need your feedback on what we can do to encourage attendance at the membership meetings. Finley again reiterated the importance of hearing from the residents on this issue.

The Restricted Parking survey is being e-mailed to residents on our mailing list. Members are encouraged to complete these surveys and send them back as soon as possible. We would like to have a public meeting after the survey is circulated for additional feedback. The Carver community has already begun their program.

We are in a new CAPS group, the north side group. There are very few JW properties on the CAPS list now but, we know there are more that should be. If you have properties of concern, please let Board Chair, Charles Finley which property concerns you or download an application from the city web site as well as the HJWA website. Look at having someone from the Post Office to come speak about improving mail service.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Demmie Murray, HJWA Board Secretary

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