MINUTES
City of Cocoa
District 1 Town Hall Meeting

February 16, 2021

A District 1 Town Hall Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at Emma Jewel Charter Academy, 705 Blake Ave., in Cocoa, Florida 32922, as publicly noticed.

I. Mayor Blake called the Workshop to order at 6:04 p.m.

Pastor Latrice Daniels provided the invocation and Deputy Mayor Goins' nephew led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

PRESENT:	Michael C. Blake	Mayor
	James Goins	Deputy Mayor
	Lavander Hearn	Councilmember
	Lorraine Koss	Councilmember
	Stockton Whitten	City Manager
	Monica Arsenault	Assistant City Clerk
ABSENT:	Rip Dyal	Councilmember

OTHER STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Walsh, Utilities Director; Jonathan Lamm, Fire Chief; Bryant Smith, Public Works Director; Rebecca Bowman, Finance Director; Nancy Bunt, Community Services Director; Rob Beach, Chief Technology Officer; Samantha Senger, Assistant to the City Manager/PR Specialist; Lorne Stinnett, Human Resources Manager; Angela Essing, Economic Development Manager; Michael Dellatorre, Police Lieutenant; Robert Bobay, Police Lieutenant; and Chris Hattaway, Police Officer.

II. Welcome by Deputy Mayor Goins

III. Introductions of Council & Staff by Deputy Mayor Goins

IV. Discussion on the Following Items:

1. Future of the Former Dr. Joe Lee Smith Community Center Building

Deputy Mayor Goins gave a presentation[1], pointing out the City's new Council members and recognizing the passing of former Mayor Jake Williams, Jr. He mentioned various community food distribution events that took place throughout 2020 and their success. Deputy Mayor Goins also highlighted the butterfly garden and the PAL Program.

Additionally, he discussed several projects that were completed over the last year such as the Captain Ed Lanni T-Docks dedication and the new Dr. Joe Lee Smith Center. He pointed out that there are several events that will take place in the community over the coming weeks as well such as the Community Walks with Council.

Mr. Bryant Smith, Public Works Director, gave a brief history on the former Dr. Joe Lee Smith Center. He pointed out that to bring the building up to current code it would cost around one million dollars and to change the use of the building would cost an additional two to three million dollars. The building could be kept as is but there would be operation and maintenance costs associated with the building.

Ms. Nancy Bunt, Community Services Director, explained the RFP process which is also another option as there has been interest in the property. Deputy Mayor Goins asked if a committee reviews the proposals. In response, Ms. Bunt replied affirmatively and explained the process.

Rev. Dennis, 3710 Catalina Dr., shared that he thinks a dental clinic would be a good use for the building.

Lois Boxer, 15 N. Indian River Dr., thought it could be a good place for kids to take part in various after school activities.

A citizen mentioned he thought it would be a good place to work out or have a dance studio for kids.

Shayla Murray, Cocoa, noted that she thought it should be a multi-functional facility and have more than one use.

Mayor Blake agreed that it should offer something for everyone.

[1] Exhibit A: District 1 Town Hall Meeting

Larry Sinclair, 1052 Mitchell St., asked about the PAL Program and pointed out that if Ms. Delores McLaughlin had a permanent home it may help and she could get some funding to assist with the program. He feels if the community could pull together the building could be fixed up so the City could offer a multi-use facility.

Anthony Blunt, 4600 Olympic Dr., thinks entrepreneurship and trade skills could be taught there.

Marilyn Smith agreed with Mr. Blunt but also added a kitchen or catering business might be appropriate.

Deputy Mayor Goins added that there have been rumors that Council had discussed demolition of the building, however those rumors are false.

2. Future of Provost Park

Ms. Bunt shared and discussed the Provost Park/Parks Master Plan. She noted that there are social pin points where citizens can go online and pin point any park in Cocoa and share input or comments on that particular park.

Councilmember Koss discussed the need for parks and pointed out that they can also be good management tools for stormwater.

Councilmember Hearn talked about trash clean up and volunteers painting houses for people who can't afford it which will in turn help to raise house values.

Rev. Dennis shared the steps he thinks the City should take to take back control of the parks. He feels there should be a permanent police presence throughout the day. In response, Lieutenant Bobay mentioned that the police department is moving forward with their surveillance project but also pointed out that a permanent police presence would not be feasible but they could certainly conduct checks throughout the day.

Deputy Mayor Goins inquired about a timeline for the installation of the cameras. In response, Lieutenant Bobay advised that they just obtained the grant last week and have a meeting in the morning to discuss further.

Larry Sinclair pointed out that he has been working on the lot next to Prospect Park and has paid a lot of money to clean it up but he is having some difficulty securing

it due to the fence between the lot and the park. In response, Mr. Smith noted they will work with the County to get the issue resolved.

Victoria Mitchner asked when the Council will entertain the conversation of taking our parks back. In response, City Manager Whitten shared the topic will be brought to an upcoming meeting in the next few months.

Shayla Murray asked what steps the City needs to take. In response, Deputy Mayor Goins pointed out that there is power in numbers and the community has to initiate the conversation and show their support. Additionally, City Manager Whitten provided further clarification regarding the referendum.

V. Updates on the Following Items:

1. Cocoa Police Chief Recruitment

City Manager Whitten provided an update on the police chief recruitment. He mentioned all the places the position was advertised and added that there was a total of eighty applicants that was narrowed down to seventeen. There is a review committee that will interview them in order to determine the finalists.

Deputy Mayor Goins added that the City is trying to remain as transparent as possible by including the citizens in the hiring process by asking for input and encouraging everyone to show up to the meetings and participate in the discussions.

2. Upstart Cocoa, New Small Business Start-Up Program

Ms. Angela Essing, Economic Development Manager, shared details of the program and eligibility requirements. She added that the City will be partnering with WeVenture who will offer a course tailored to small businesses. She discussed the requirements of the forgivable loan which is ten thousand dollars. She also added that Deputy Mayor Goins reached out to SunTrust and BB&T Bank and they agreed to partner with the City to share knowledge and programs for multi-cultural financial investments.

A question was asked as to whether the City has reached out to sister cities to see what opportunities they are offering for minority owned or women owned businesses. In response, Ms. Essing explained that the City looked at Orlando's program.

Mr. Smith provided city project updates on the downtown de-mucking, Lee Wenner Park, the T-docks and parking.

Ms. West, Broadmoor Acres, shared her concerns about flooding at her property and asked when the City will be coming to fill the ditch in the back of her house. In response, Mr. Smith advised that the City is aware of the issue and has a goal to improve the area in phases.

Furthermore, Mr. Sinclair provided additional information regarding flooding in the neighborhood and the ongoing issues that have been going on for years. In response, Mr. Smith agreed to send staff out to take a look.

In closing, Deputy Mayor Goins encouraged all to feel free to contact their district representatives with questions and concerns. He thanked everyone for coming.

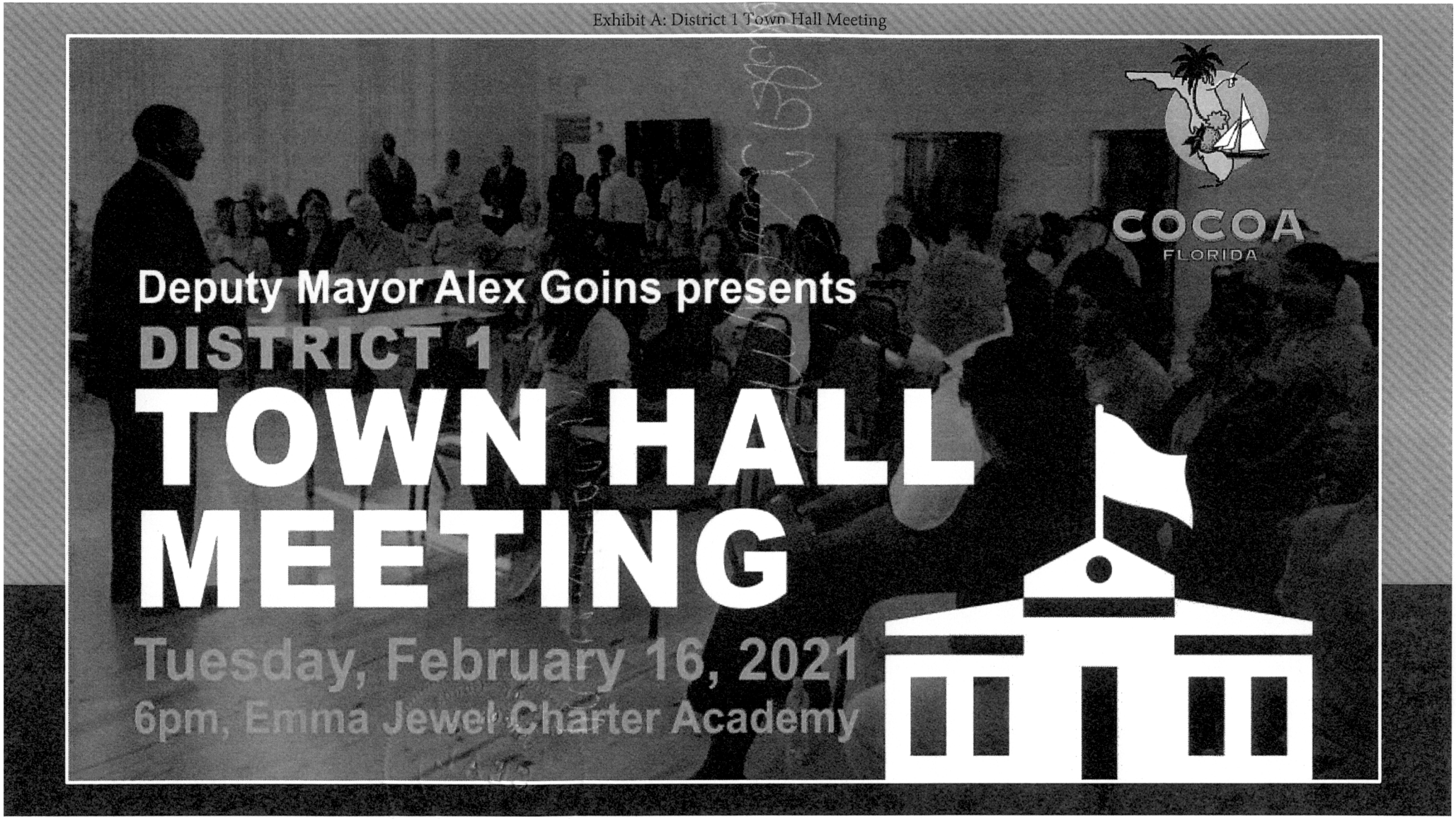
The District 1 Town Hall meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

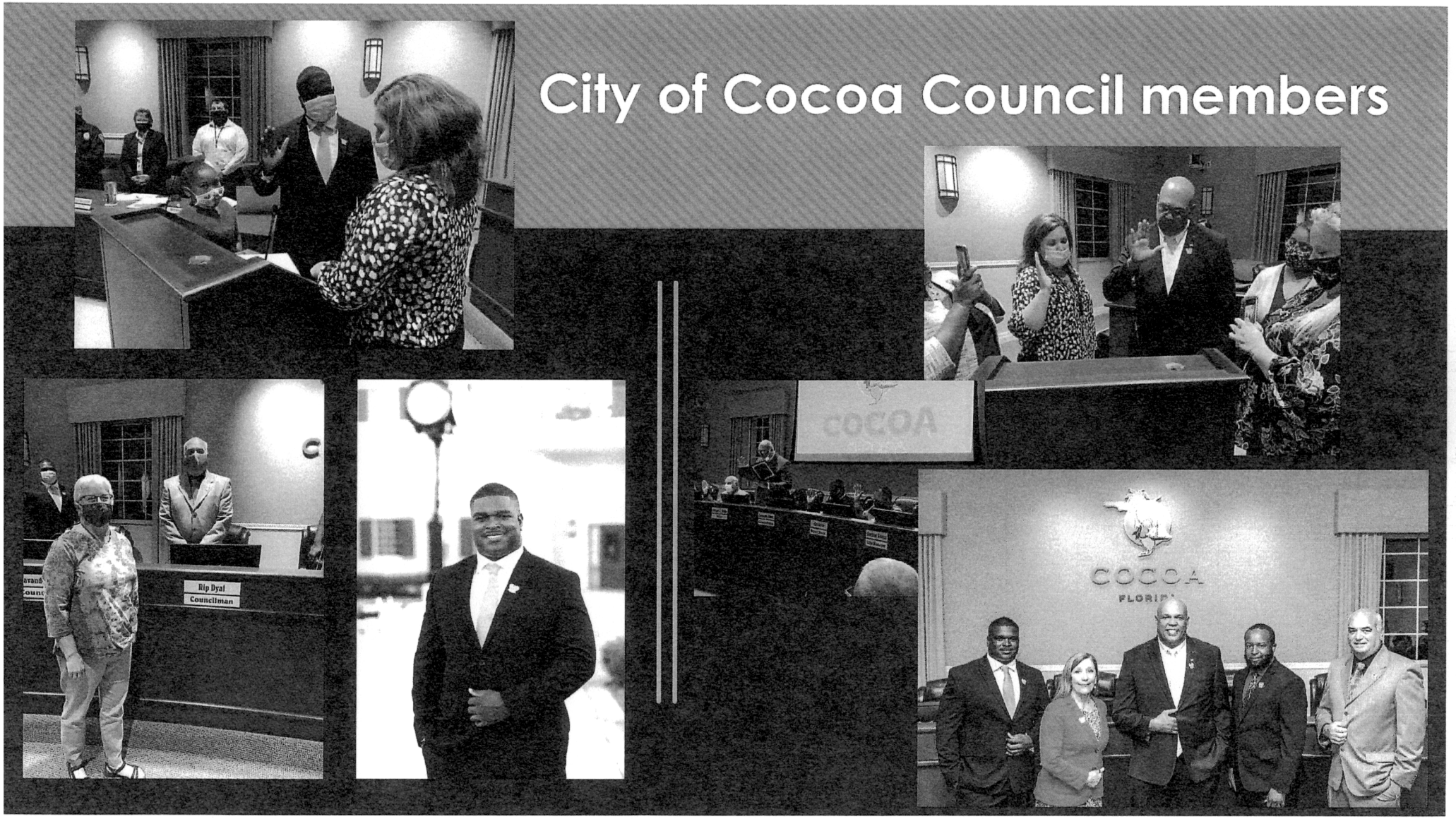
Michael C. Blake, Mayor

ATTEST:

Carie E. Shealy, MMC, City Clerk
(Transcribed by M. Arsenault, Asst. City Clerk)

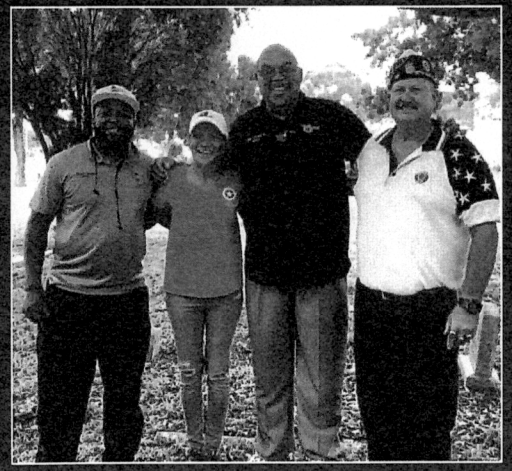
Exhibit A: District 1 Town Hall Meeting



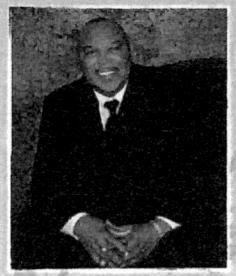

City of Cocoa Council members
Rip Dyal
Councilman
COCOA
COCOA

Life Celebration of Former Mayor Jake Williams, Jr.





CELEBRATING THE *Legacy of Life* Jake Williams, Jr



Sunrise 2/17/1960 Sunset 12/28/2020

Funeral Service will be Friday January 8, 2021 at 10:00am
NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
6755 S. Washington Ave Titusville FL 32780

MILITARY HONORS
Burial Friday - Friday, Jan. 8, 1:00 p.m.
Cape Canaveral National Cemetery
5525 US Highway 1 Mims, FL 32754

REPASS after Military Honor will be held at
Cocoa River Front Amphitheater at 3:00pm
JAZZ IN THE GARDEN - if possible, bring chairs
Live Entertainment by The Reflections Band
Dinner prepared and served by
Pebbles Catering & Event Design
For more information please call Keisha 321-863-7919
CDC
Wear a mask over your nose and mouth

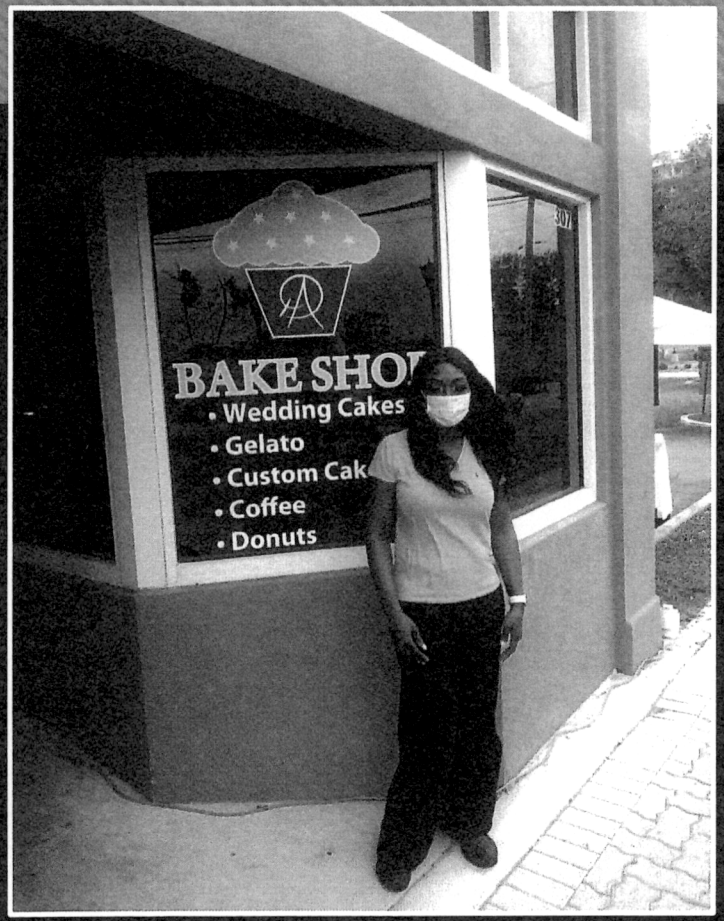


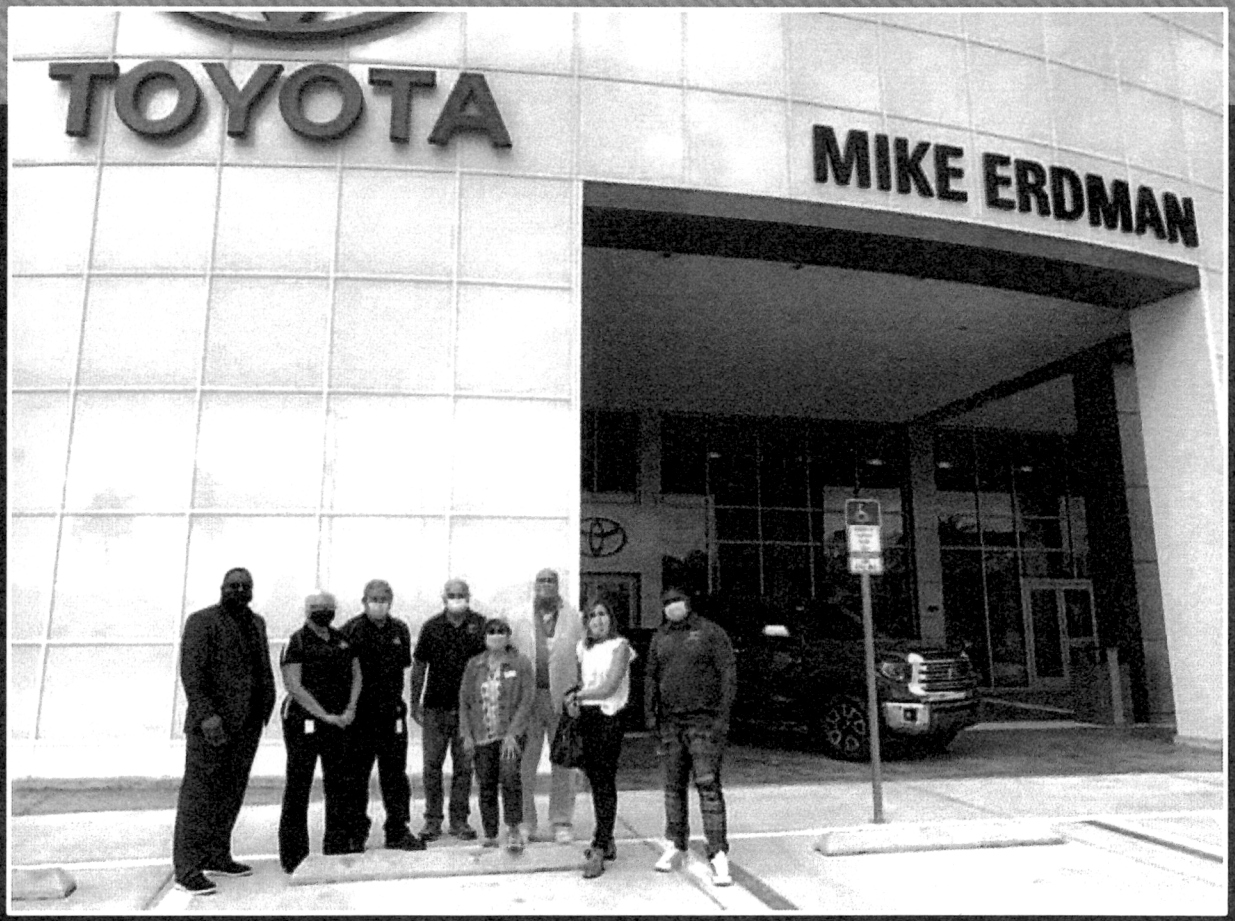


Legislative Action day in Tallahassee

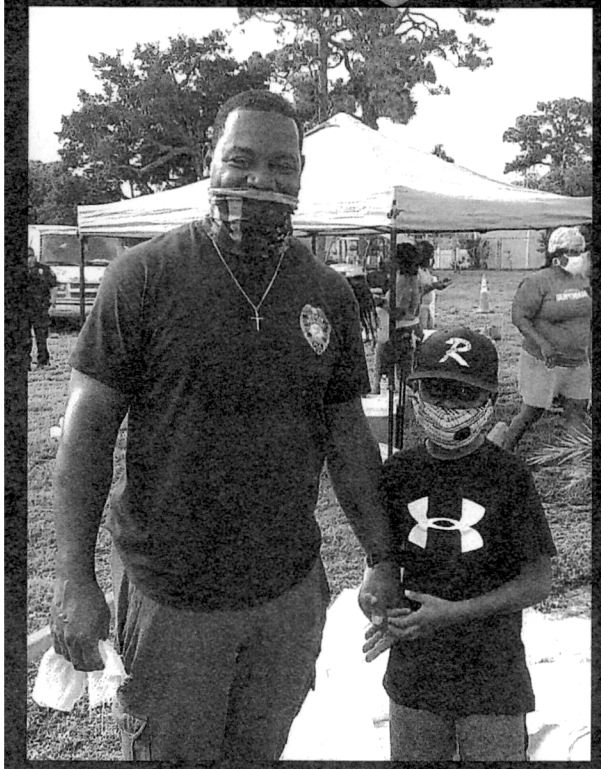


Businesses in Cocoa





Community Food Distribution





FARM SHARE

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

W/ REPRESENTATIVE TYLER SIROIS, DISTRICT 51

JUNE 27, 2020 FROM 10A.M. - 1 P.M.

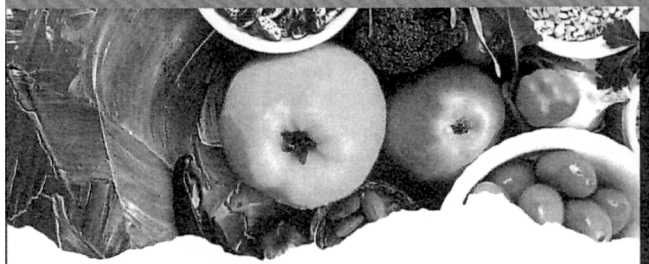
THE R.E.A.L. CHURCH
509 BLAKE AVE.
COCOA, FL 32922

DRIVE-THRU DISTRIBUTION
Food is first come, first served
Farm Share is an equal opportunity provider

LEARN MORE AT FARMSHARE.ORG
FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT (321) 449-5111



Community Food Distribution



BREVARD VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTERS (VOAD) | SECOND HARVEST | UNITED WAY | MATTHEW 25:35 MINISTRY

PROVIDES

DRIVE THRU

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020

1:00 PM - UNTIL GONE

PARKER MEMORIAL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

4101 MELVIN CHATMAN WAY, COCOA, FL 32926

To ensure the health safety of volunteers and community members, we must adhere to the CDC guidelines. Please remain in your car and open the trunk when it's your turn in line.

Food is distributed first come, first served while supplies last.

SUPPORT FROM:

BREVARD COUNTY CHURCHES | BREVARD COUNTY SHERIFF

CITY OF COCOA | CITY OF ROCKLEDGE

VOAD

produce / dry goods



THE REAL CHURCH

Pebbles CATERING & EVENT DESIGN

Never Skipping on Quality!

EST. 2009

"Together we can and we will"

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Christ Over Crisis

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

SATURDAY • SEPT 12TH

3:00PM

1046 DIXON BLVD

COCOA FL 32922

CONTACT KEISHA FOR MORE INFORMATION

321-735-4910

Transformed Publishing

Brevard Nursing Academy

FRAGRANCE & FASHION

Keeping Cocoa Beautiful







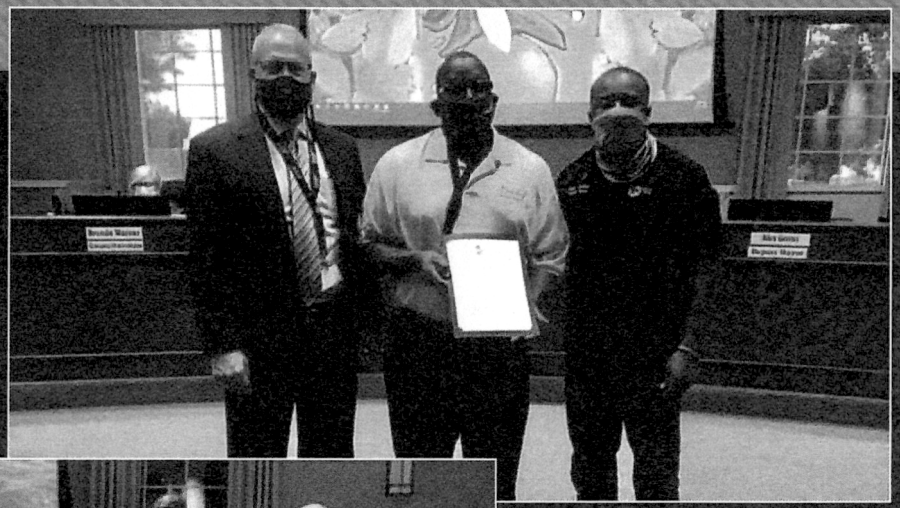






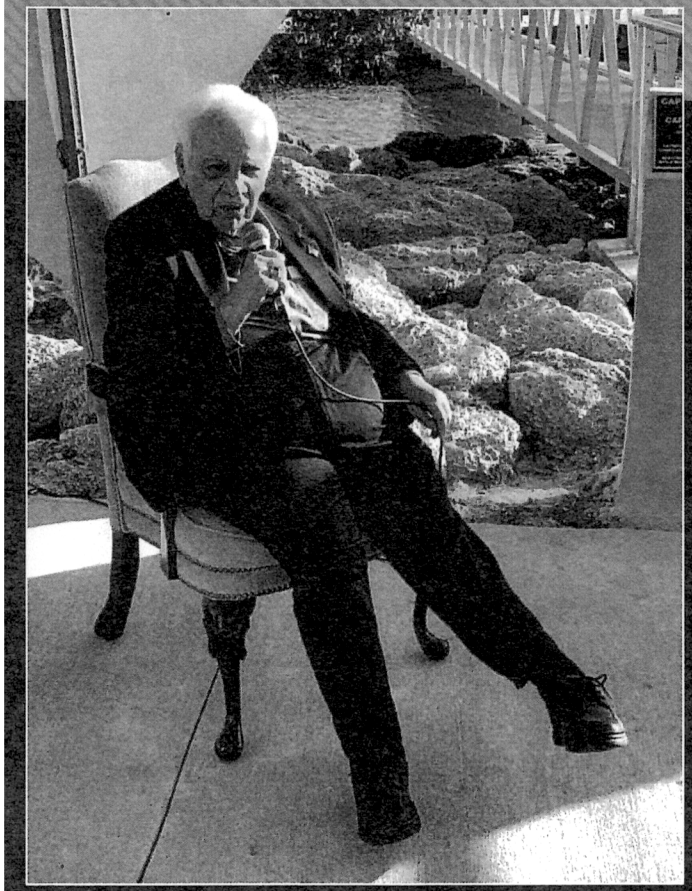
Honoring the Members of our Community







Captain Ed Lanni T-Dock Dedication



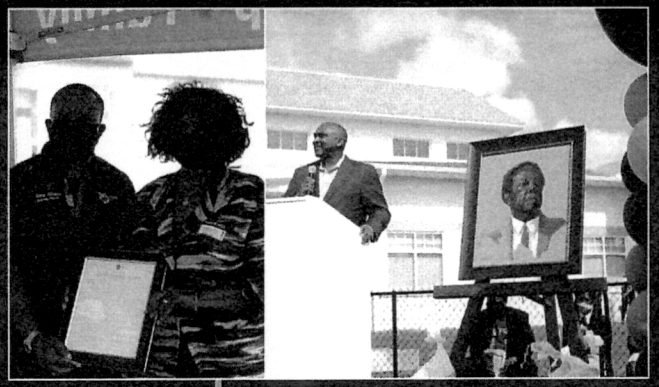


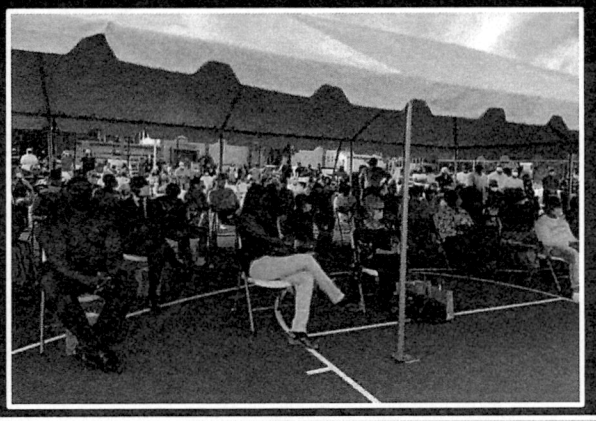


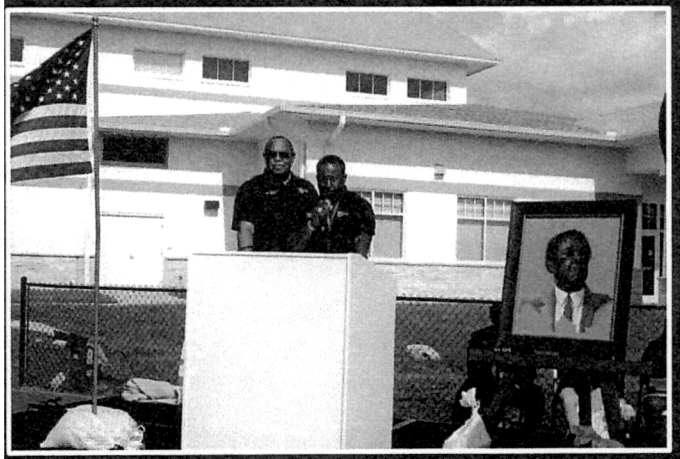


Dr. Joe Lee Smith Community Center













Community Game Night at Dr. Joe Lee Smith Community Center

Sponsored By The

COMMUNITY

BLACK HISTORY

GAME NIGHT!

FUN FREE PARENTS NIGHT OUT FOR AGES 5 -18!

DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED

Black History Theme Games, Bingo, Board Games, Jumbo Jenga, Basketball

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH

6:30PM-9:30PM

COCOA FLORIDA

Parks & Recreation

Dr. Joe Lee Smith Community Center

415 Stone St. Cocoa, FL 32922

FACE MASK REQUIRED

Volunteers Needed!

All Volunteers Please contact

Cocoa Deputy Mayor Alex Goins 321-208-4088 or Courtenay Blunt 321-543-9706

FACE MASK ARE MANDATORY - CDC GUIDELINES WILL BE FOLLOWED







COVID 19 VACCINE

REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE

State of Florida Pre-registration

The State of Florida is now pre-registering individuals who are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine through their local county Department of Health. Brevard County is participating in this State pre-registration system. You can pre-register by:

Going online at:
www.myvaccine.fl.gov or

By calling:
(866) 201-5420

As appointments become available, you will be contacted.

Pre-registration Events

The City of Cocoa is offering assistance to eligible residents that need help with getting pre-registered through the State of Florida's pre-registration system.

Friday, February 12, 2021 - 10:00am-1:00pm

- Dr. Joe Lee Smith Community Center
  415 Stone St., Cocoa, 32922
- Cocoa City Hall
  65 Stone St., Cocoa, 32922

Other Vaccination Availability

Publix Stores
https://www.publix.com/covid-vaccine/florida
Available appointments open on Wednesdays and Fridays at 7:00am online only.

Walmart and Sams Club Stores
www.walmart.com/COVIDvaccine and
www.samsclub.com/covid.
Sam's Club in Cocoa is the only Cocoa location.

Things to consider:

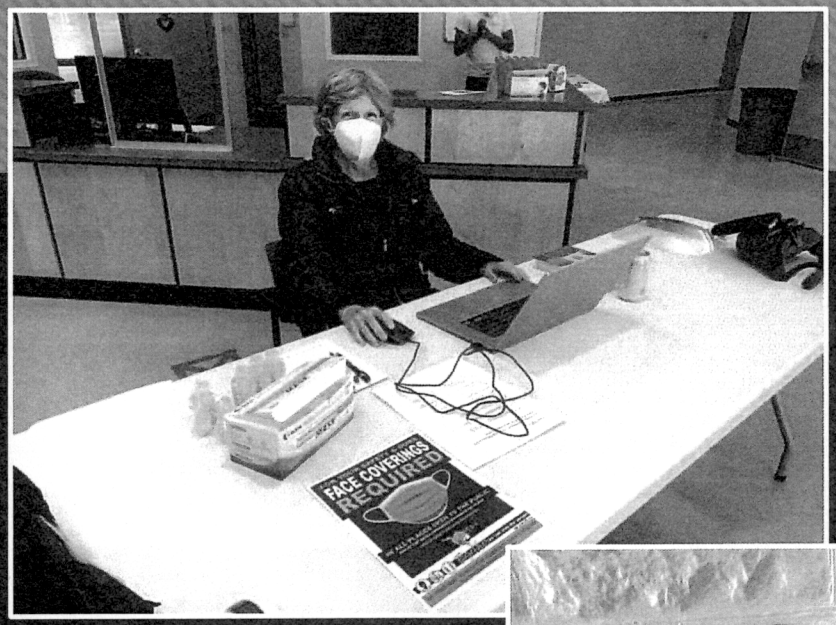
- Appointments will be made through the State of Florida pre-registration system as they become available. Supply of the vaccine is very low right now and the demand is very high. The wait to get a call for an available appointment could take quite some time until supplies increase.
- You can pre-register through the State of Florida's system but also try and secure a vaccine appointment at another location while you wait for a call back for an available appointment.
- You must be a Florida resident to get a vaccine in the State of Florida.
- At this time, only those residents that are 65 years of age and older, are a healthcare worker with direct patient contact or are residents of or staff of a long-term care facility are eligible to sign up to receive the vaccine.
- If you are not part of the eligible group to receive the vaccine but you have health concerns, at this time, you will have to contact your healthcare provider to see if you are eligible and secure an appointment for the vaccine.
- Please continue to practice social distancing and wear a mask in public to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Visit the City of Cocoa's COVID-19 Resource Webpage at:

www.CocoaFL.org/COVID

or call (321) 433-8685 for assistance

Covid-19 Vaccine



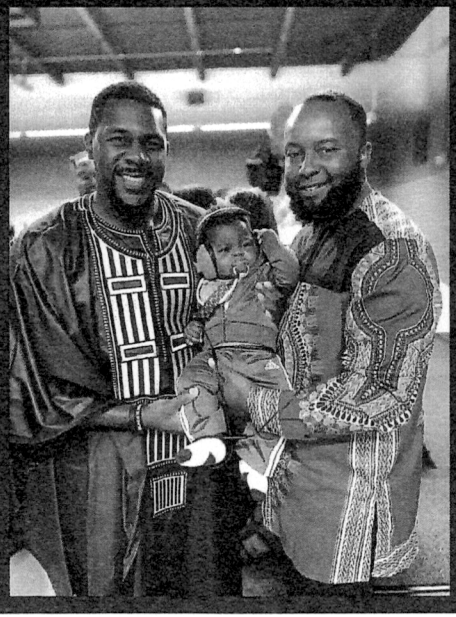


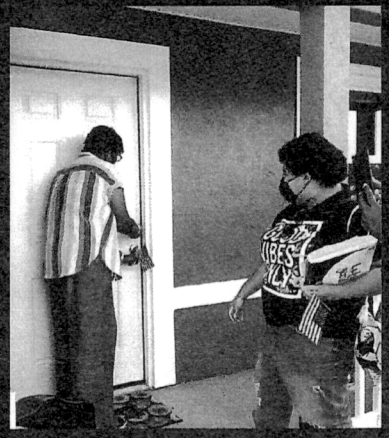
Activities in the Community













Activities in the Community



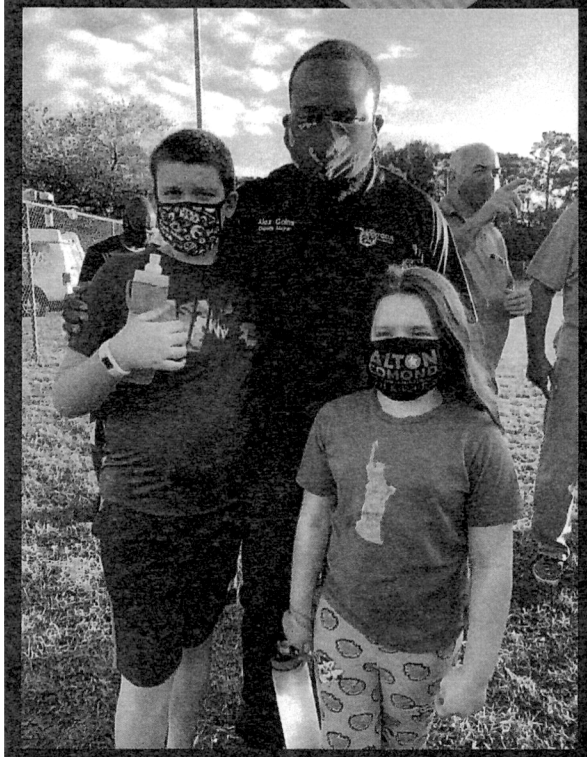








Activities in the Community





Endeavour Elementary A Community Partnership School
Nov 22, 2020 •

The greatest gift is the gift of someone's time. Thank you James and Alex Goins of ABC Land Clearing for giving us the gift of your time, equipment and expertise. Our community garden is really shaping up!



Save the Date

Health First

2021

Mayors' Fitness Challenge

FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS

FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED



COMMUNITY WALK with Council

MARCH 13th | COCOA VILLAGE | 9:00 AM

MEET AT RIVERFRONT PARK STAGE

Save the Date

Health First

2021

Mayors' Fitness Challenge

FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS
FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED

COMMUNITY WALK with Council



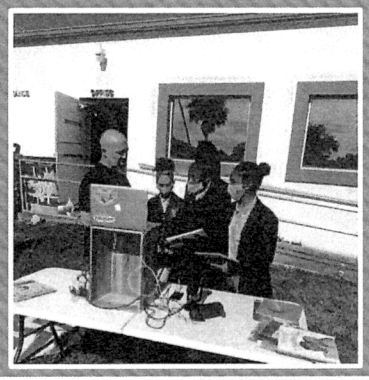
MARCH 20th | DIAMOND SQUARE
MEET AT RETENTION POND BEHIND EMMA JEWEL CHARTER ACADEMY | 10:30AM

Emma Jewel

E J

C A

Charter Academy









Thank You

WELCOME



AGENDA

- Welcome
  - Invocation
  - Pledge of Allegiance
- Slide Show
- Input Needed on:
  - The future of the former Dr. Joe Lee Smith Community Center building
  - The future of Provost Park/Update on Parks Master Plan
- Updates Provided on:
  - Cocoa Police Chief Recruitment
  - Upstart Cocoa – Small Businesses Program
  - Other City Projects

COCOA
FLORIDA

FORMER DJLS CENTER

RESULTS OF INDEPENDENT ARCHITECTURAL BUILDING ASSESSMENT

- Maintain current use and bring into code compliance - $1.1 Million
    - City currently does not have adequate staffing for recreational or social programing
- Change current use and bring into code compliance - $2-3 Million
    - This is due to the selective demolition that would need to take place. Selective demolition typically drives costs up since portions need to be protected during the renovations.
- Annual Operation and Maintenance Costs - $47,000/year
    - Currently not budgeted
- Repurpose the site as a stormwater and/or recreational area
    - The upfront cost to remove the building is $15,000-$20,000
    - Site could be constructed into a small dry pond stormwater area
    - Dry pond could also be used as a small recreational field

PROVOST PARK/PARKS MASTER PLAN



COCOA
FLORIDA

POLICE CHIEF RECRUITMENT

With the retirement of Chief Michael Cantaloupe in December 2020, after serving 30 years with the Cocoa Police Department, the City of Cocoa will be initiating a recruitment process for the next Chief of Police.

Timeline:

September 2020

Ideal Candidate Develop-ment (Survey of residents, Council, and PD employees)

November 2020 – February 2021

Recruitment

February - March 2021

Candidate Evaluation



April 2021

Candidate Selection

COCOA FLORIDA

DIAMOND SQUARE
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

UPSTART COCOA SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

$7,500 Forgivable Loan
$2,500 Business Education
$10,000 Investment in the business community

Eligibility

- small business
- minority-owned and/or women owned
- for-profit
- new or relocating business in Diamond Square
- 10% personal funding

Community Goals

- ✓ attract small minority business
- ✓ empower entrepreneurs
- ✓ contribute to the economic vitality
- ✓ cultivate a vibrant neighborhood through diverse businesses

✓support minority entrepreneurs
- ✓business skill sets
- ✓start-up costs
- ✓marketing expenses

weVENTURE™
WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER at FLORIDA TECH
BISK COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Loan Forgiveness

- community enrichment completed
- 3 year deferred forgivable loan

COCOA
FLORIDA

CITY PROJECT UPDATES

