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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 108–2010

LETTER TO COMMISSION

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: April 11, 2010

SUBJECT: 600 Block 6th street/6th and Ocean

The purpose of this LTC is to update the status of issues brought to the City Commission during the January Meeting and subsequently presented to the Neighborhoods Committee at the February 16, 2010 Meeting via a referral for discussion. A follow-up is currently scheduled for the April 27, 2010 Committee meeting, but we wanted to provide you with this information as this has been an area of concern.

As you may recall, concerns relating to the area along the 600 block of 6th Street and 6th and Ocean Drive included criminal activity, property maintenance issues and other quality of life issues. A constituent complaint came following a shooting near Ocean and 6th Street, as well as requests received concerning the 600 block of 6th Street surrounding the Las Olas Café. The shooting resulted in an immediate arrest. Additionally, there were robberies around the 600 block of 6th Street. A subject was quickly identified in these robberies and is being actively pursued.

Immediately following the Commission referral, the Police Department initiated a pro active stance from Alton Road to Lummus Park with a special focus on addressing quality of life issues. PD partnered with the Parking Department to deal with parking violations. The Parking Department increased enforcement on the 100 block of 6th Street and added signage. Enforcement in the area continues with 90 citations issued on the 100 block of 6th street since January 16th and 61 citations issued on the 500 block and 6th and Euclid during the same period. The Police Department has utilized the Crime Suppression Team in monitoring the area with plain clothes officers.

Code Compliance has issued 58 violations in the area surrounding Las Olas for items ranging from graffiti, overgrowth of trash, signage violations, dumpsters and sanitation issues, failing to pay Resort Taxes, noise, animals running at large and failure to renew licenses. Code continues to take appropriate action until all cases are closed.

Public Works determined that there was funding available to address short term street pavement issues in the area. The overlay of asphalt extended along 6th Street from Lennox Avenue to Washington Avenue. The cost of the improvements was $75,000. The project was completed during a two week period in February, 2010. Additionally, approximately twenty, 12' new acorn pedestrian lights were installed as part of the CIP program on Lennox from 5th to 6th Streets and on 6th Street from Lennox to Alton Road. Although the lights became operational in January, 2010 following approximately seven months of construction, a loose fuse caused the lights to go out. They have been repaired by Public Works and are again fully operational. All lights have also been restored from Alton Road to Lenox, and on Lenox from 5th to 6th Streets.

Over the past year Sanitation has increased litter control crews from 3 days a week to 7 days a week in that area. Trash receptacles are being emptied daily, and a trash can has been added to the area in front of Las Olas Café. Additionally, pressure washing near the café occurs weekly.

Please feel free to call me with any questions or if you require additional information.

JMG/HMF /lwb
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