

1 Clark and Viking, George Carter and Cedrick, two weeks ago I
2 think. I was invited as a concerned business owner along
3 Broadway, which you know I've been talking about it for years
4 so...

5 Hopefully it's back in the mix with Mr. Brown, hopefully,
6 and whoever up there could support it, you know, because until
7 this thing is through, there's still a pray, what I hope for.
8 Because, you know, every time I drive through West Palm -- and
9 I'm asking you guys, if you do go down to West Palm to look at
10 their banners, go a little farther down -- and I mentioned it
11 before in years past -- around Antique Row they have a section
12 of street exactly like Riviera Beach; north of Okeechobee, south
13 of Southern Boulevard, there is a stretch, and it's got
14 on-street parking.

15 And, you know, the thing that kills me is that during my
16 years of talking with DOT and everybody else, there was a safety
17 issue there; and then the next month it's an issue of something
18 else; and so it goes on and on and on. But I really don't think
19 it's a safety issue. I really don't know if it's just a
20 beautification thing or what.

21 But I hope you guys go down to West Palm and see that it's
22 a feasible thing.

23 And hopefully, with Mike Clark and Viking and George and
24 any of you guys up there that would support this, that we can
25 tell DOT what we want; instead of them telling us what we want.

1 Because, you know, it's confusing again when I talk to both
2 parties, because I get a story from one party and then I get a
3 story from the other party.

4 So, you know, this is our chance for everybody on either
5 side of the fence to come together; because we're all in
6 agreement on this; and for once, you know, as long as I've been
7 here, you know, everybody is on the same page with this. So I
8 think it would be a step in the right direction, for everybody
9 in TV land, everybody to see that citizens and you guys and
10 everybody involved can come together and fight this thing;
11 because apparently it is going to be a fight with DOT. You know
12 what I mean. But as a group, and as a big party, I think we can
13 get it done. And that's what I'm praying on. I know a lot of
14 people need it too.

15 It's just a fact that a lot of people are used to nothing
16 happening in the city, and I think that's why they're not here
17 speaking in support of this.

18 But me as a business owner along Broadway, I can speak for
19 everybody, because I've been speaking to people; and I can tell
20 by looking at it, and looking at West Palm and other cities,
21 that we need it; because Broadway is our downtown, whether we
22 like it or not. I don't know anywhere else that we could call
23 downtown. So I'm hoping you guys support it. Thanks.

24 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Thank you. Bonnie Larson.

25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Madam Chair, members of the

1 board, I would like to comment on US-1 improvements. I was
2 present along with Mr. Thomas at a meeting that was hosted by
3 Viking and businesses along Broadway, and they expressed several
4 concerns, at which time the Director of Community Development
5 has replied. Unless there is a formal letter perhaps from the
6 business community, I would like to I guess go on record
7 publicly that we think that the major issues have been reviewed
8 and perhaps are now resolved to the extent of the city's
9 satisfaction.

10 The issue of on-street parking was reviewed. As you know,
11 the Sea Chest building was vacated in order to provide an
12 on-street parking prototype, that is largely viewed as being
13 responsive to Mr. Mahoney's concerns. There are potentially
14 other elements to allow for on-street parking. But we think
15 that there are opportunities for development; and as new
16 development occurs, that it does not preclude the potential to
17 create on-street parking to reflect the components of new
18 development.

19 One major issue I think that the community expressed as a
20 concern was the median that prohibited turning at certain
21 intersections. The city I believe worked with DOT, worked with
22 their businesses, and have identified where additional turn
23 lanes will and should occur.

24 And I believe the major businesses, Viking, Rybovich,
25 Lockheed Martin, Cracker Boy, others, have seen those plans --

1 and some of those representatives are here -- and if they are
2 not satisfied with the modifications on the turn lanes, then I
3 would welcome their public comments.

4 But hearing none, I think that we along with the city would
5 feel that we've been responsive to the concern of turn lanes, in
6 order to accommodate our working waterfront.

7 One major issue that was brought up was the issue of speed.
8 I did speak with the Director of Community Development,
9 Ms. McKinney, and she validated that the speed is at 35 miles
10 per hour. That seems to be consistent with US-1. And so the
11 business community would like to soften the speed. But again, I
12 don't know if we'll have much push there in order to deal with
13 that. And I think that there are other ways as we redevelop the
14 Broadway corridor and make it more attractive, with signage and
15 other things, we can certainly attract our traffic to the points
16 of interest.

17 The major opportunity we have, and the most significant
18 opportunity, is to bury the utility lines. And we think that
19 that's where our combined efforts, the CRA and the city, should
20 focus to see, while to understand the schedule, the timeline,
21 and to not derail FDOT. And while we understand what that
22 schedule is, is to examine our resources to see if we can bury
23 those utility lines as the right-of-way is being approved.

24 But I would say from the CRA's perspective we think the
25 issues have been addressed. And unless you direct us otherwise,

1 we consider those concerns resolved.

2 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Thank you. Miss Larson.

3 MS. LARSON: Bonnie Larson, West 27th.

4 Well, I wasn't going to talk about Broadway, but now you
5 forced me into it. I went to the meeting at Newcomb Hall. And
6 there must have been 65, 70 people there. Not one person spoke
7 in favor of a 17-foot median down our Broadway. And that's
8 great that Rybovich and Viking and whatever will have entryways
9 into their properties, but what about us? We're the citizens;
10 it's our street too. First of all, and foremost, it is our
11 street.

12 A point that I brought up, and I'll keep saying it: We
13 have a 17-foot median on Broadway; no other city has that.
14 Think about it; somebody is attacking you, the police are headed
15 north, here you are, okay now you got to wait for the police
16 because now the police have to go five blocks north, make a
17 U-turn and come back; by that time you're either dead or laying
18 in the street or something. The guy who just attacked you is
19 long gone.

20 The criminals in this city are going to be laughing their
21 heads off if we put a 17-foot median in. Because that prohibits
22 not only the police from getting to us when we need police
23 assistance right then; you're having an emergency, somebody in
24 your family is having a heart attack, the ambulance, they've got
25 to go five blocks north and turn around and come back. It's

1 just ridiculous. I think that the criminals are going to be
2 laughing their heads off if we go ahead with this.

3 So think about it, please think about it. It's important
4 they get to us too, not just to Rybovich and Viking. It's
5 important that they get to our houses when someone is breaking
6 into our house or someone is attacking us on the street. That's
7 very, very important. And I think for once we really need to
8 put our citizens first.

9 So I disagree that all the items have been addressed,
10 because you weren't there at that meeting. I don't think you
11 were here yet. But 65, 70 people spoke up and they said we
12 don't want the 17-foot median, we don't want something that's
13 going to cut off our streets.

14 You also got to think about -- now I'm using my time, I'm
15 not even going to talk about what I want to talk about.

16 Anyway, the turn lane, they want to do away with the turn
17 lane. That's the best thing I think they've ever done to US-1.
18 Because it's only going to be two lanes of traffic going north
19 and two going south. One gentleman brought up about the buses.
20 The buses stop, okay, there goes one lane of traffic. Now you
21 only got one lane going. If you do away with those turn
22 lanes -- look at all the people going to Singer Island. They
23 back up, I tell you, they back up for two blocks in that turn
24 lane to go to Singer Island. We're not going to have the turn
25 lane, so they're going to be in only one of the two lanes that

1 goes north or south. Think about road rage in Riviera Beach.
2 That turn lane is very, very important. And DOT doesn't want to
3 have it. But think about us. Think about all the people --
4 like I said, you're going to Singer Island, two blocks -- get
5 out there every day and look at that during rush hour, two
6 blocks worth, they're piled up there. We're not going to have
7 that.

8 If an ambulance comes, the bus is stopped, where the heck
9 is he going to go? We're wasting valuable time with the police
10 situation and with the ambulances, we're really wasting time.
11 Like I said, we're going to see a lot of road rage in Riviera
12 Beach if that goes through. So please think about it.

13 Number 6 tonight said the RFP for non-bank qualifying tax
14 exempt loan. There was a question yesterday about that; it was
15 going to be looked into what that is. Non-bank qualified tax
16 loan, capital improvement bond. What is it? Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Thank you. Ezra Saffold.

18 MR. SAFFOLD: Hello, Council. I'm Ezra Saffold. I'm a
19 local builder in the area. 141 Blue Heron Boulevard.

20 I want to speak on the issue of you seeking the money, what
21 she was saying, the tax exempt, that you, in your approval or
22 disapproval, that you address the issue of utilization of your
23 local contractors in that process.

24 Again, the question of the definition of nonexempt, maybe
25 it needs to be defined a little more. But as you approve or

1 disapprove, that you review that, the utilization of our local
2 contractors in that, that there is a more, a greater
3 participation, a point system based on us.

4 There is a lot of development going on, there should be no
5 reason why the local contractors here don't have a greater
6 chance of participating in the development. From here to Miami,
7 they're hearing about the marina development. So there is no
8 reason why our home town guys should not be considered in any
9 kind of progress that affects our own town. I live here, I work
10 here, my dreams came from here. So just remember that. Thank
11 you.

12 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Thank you. Nora Mahoney.

13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: As Ms. Mahoney is coming up, I
14 had a chance to play a match of pool with Mr. Saffold tonight.
15 I see he learned how to play pool here, and maybe he needs to
16 improve his game.

17 MS. MAHONEY: Good evening. Nora Mahoney, 2120 Broadway.

18 I just heard that you have a CRA advisory committee. I
19 would like to know, what's the point about the CRA board?

20 Are we going to be able, the public is going to be able to
21 know by property records while you talk about it? Because it
22 looks like you talk about the marina in the redevelopment area.

23 The lawyer knows that he needs to be recorded so the public
24 will know what's going on there.

25 MR. HAYGOOD: Yes, and it's advertised, the meetings are

1 advertised.

2 MS. MAHONEY: I'm talking about the CRA advisory committee,
3 not the CRA board. So it is advertised?

4 Okay. We would like to know what happened in the last
5 meeting.

6 The other thing is, you're talking -- or Mr. Thomas talk
7 about the lowest responsive bid. I think this is America. I
8 know you want to give the business to everybody who is here.
9 We're here; we don't receive too many bids from the City of
10 Riviera Beach. Because I know you receive a lot of business
11 from Lake Park. They don't pay taxes. We do. But that's okay,
12 that's the competition of free enterprise.

13 The other thing is, I can see for many, many, many years
14 now, but I'm going to say now, before it wasn't, the meeting
15 wasn't televised; you're not supposed to be talking to each
16 other, not even the chair, or the CRA director, or the lawyer.
17 Anything that you say here, it needs to be said so the public
18 will know what you're talking about. I think that in that way
19 you are rookies. I mean you know what the law is. But I'm
20 talking to you, that this is the last time I'm going to say
21 you're not supposed to say or discuss things between each other.
22 This is a public meeting. Everyone needs to know what you're
23 talking about.

24 The other thing, to the CRA director, how many police
25 people we have in the nighttime, in the afternoon, in the

1 morning, in the CRA area? Do we have enough people?

2 And the other thing about US-1, it looks like a -- I'm
3 sorry to say again, CRA director, you're not listening, we have
4 a lot of concerns. We told you at the last meeting what we are
5 concerned about it, about not only the police, the fire
6 department, the ambulance. I have a fire a long time ago,
7 almost I think it was in 2001 or 2000. I believe it was in
8 2001. Luckily, because of the road, how it is constructed right
9 now on US-1, the fire department came on time, they help us not
10 to be on fire completely. So there is a lot of concerns for
11 that. You don't want to listen. You think that everything is
12 fine, what you're doing, what DOT is telling you or where Mary
13 McKinney is telling you what to do, it's wrong. You're not
14 listening to the people. You are the servant of the public,
15 that's why you decided to run and you are here there. So please
16 listen to us. Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER THOMAS: Madam Chair. I didn't understand a
19 whole lot of what she was speaking about, but I heard her say
20 something about an advisory board that was picked by this board?

21 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: No.

22 COMMISSIONER THOMAS: Because I didn't know anything about
23 that. What exactly is that?

24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: I shared with the board several
25 meetings ago that I was forming an executive director advisory

1 committee, that initially was the Charette's steering committee.
2 We called a meeting of the original members of the Charette's
3 steering committee several weeks ago, nearly six weeks ago, to
4 discuss elements of the redevelopment plan. And I felt that
5 there was an extreme value in keeping the community engaged, or
6 a representative group of the community engaged, and that would
7 opt to form for my benefit an advisory committee that would
8 provide advice and guidance to the executive director as it
9 relates to fulfilling the executing on the redevelopment plan.

10 We do need to clarify the requirements under the Sunshine
11 law. Mr. Haygood informed me that our meetings have to be
12 advertised and that the public is welcome to attend and should
13 be accommodated.

14 The members of the advisory committee raised questions
15 about the protocol as it relates to their communication with
16 each other, and whether or not they are required to comply with
17 elements of the Sunshine. So I will need to follow up with
18 Mr. Haygood in that regard.

19 COMMISSIONER THOMAS: These are individuals that you picked
20 for the executive director advisory board?

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: That is correct.

22 COMMISSIONER THOMAS: Just wanted to make that clear.

23 Just so individuals don't get up at the mic and -- because
24 I heard her say that it was picked by this board. I was not
25 aware of that at all. I want to make sure that that goes out,

1 that this board had nothing to do with that, that was something
2 that you engaged in on your own.

3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: That's correct.

4 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Thank you, sir. Ms. Blue.

5 MS. BLUE: Sylvia Blue, 748 West 1st Street.

6 As chair of the Committee For a Better Riviera Beach, I
7 come before you once again just to say thank you. I know you
8 drink a lot of blood, and you're required to do that, but we do
9 support you. Thank you for fulfilling your oath of office and
10 making decisions for the betterment of the entire community. We
11 will continue to support those board members that are committed
12 to improving the quality of life here in this community.

13 Now I will quote Mark Twain once again: That a lie will
14 travel halfway around the world before the truth puts its shoes
15 on. The truth is, we have a council that's working to bring
16 jobs and much needed revenue to the city. We have a mayor
17 that's working against the same.

18 Another truth: This budget year the city is facing
19 approximately a five million dollar deficit. Every employee of
20 the city is being furloughed once a month; that's twelve days a
21 year that they're not being paid for. Will they lose their jobs
22 at budget time?

23 We need an infusion of new revenue. We need employers. We
24 need new businesses providing jobs and other opportunities to
25 our residents.

1 On March 8th we're going to ask that our residents go back
2 to the polls and vote yes on the petition initiative to remove
3 the restrictive language from the marina district properties; a
4 portion of which would have provided a steady stream of revenue
5 to this community. The language as it stands offers what I
6 heard earlier, false hope, and no hope, no revenue; because that
7 language requires that the city own, manage and operate solely
8 all marina properties. It also requires that it be for
9 municipal and public use. That's the language as it stands now,
10 municipal, municipal complex, no revenue, you're not on the tax
11 role.

12 Library. That's municipal uses. That generates no
13 revenue.

14 So we'll ask you again to please go back to the polls on
15 March 8th, vote yes. We need to remove the restrictive
16 language. We need businesses to come in.

17 False hope. I don't believe in false hope. I believe in
18 hope. I have the faith that you as a council will continue to
19 work in the best interests of this community. We support those
20 of you that support us here in this community. Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Thank you. Lynne Hubbard.

22 MS. HUBBARD: Good evening. Lynne Hubbard, 1405 West 23rd
23 Street.

24 A few things. I was truly amazed at how everybody, well,
25 some of you, jumped on the fact that whether or not this company

1 was in Riviera Beach. I have never seen any of you jump on the
2 fact that all of the projects that are being done in Riviera
3 Beach doesn't have a single Riviera Beach resident on it or
4 given a job. But for the companies that are big business or
5 business that can possibly do other things to benefit only a
6 hand few of you, you're all over it; that we have Baron and we
7 have someone else here in Riviera Beach, whether or not -- but
8 if that kind of concern was shown for the jobs that you have or
9 have being done in Riviera Beach, the gentleman that was up here
10 that said he didn't have any work, and we have so much work for
11 the last four years that we could have put so many of our
12 residents back to work, but not one of you had that kind of
13 compassion to make sure that the jobs went to the local people.
14 That amazed me, to say the least.

15 The FDOT concern with the median. My concern with the
16 median is it being 17 feet wide, with full foliage, that's not
17 conducive for a downtown look; or it won't create what we need
18 to go from side to side when you're shopping; maybe eating on
19 one side and say, hey, I'll go over here and buy something.

20 You know it is confusing with what, the stories that we get
21 from Mary McKinney's office and FDOT James Hughes and his
22 designer. They said verbally, but not in their letter, that
23 Mary McKinney was driving that particular design. They said
24 that at that meeting. But when they wrote the letter and they
25 were called on it, the letter was totally different. They were

1 saying if you all are looking for a downtown, no, this is not
2 what you're going to get from this particular design. But at
3 the table in dealing with Ms. McKinney, this is the design that
4 she has chosen.

5 So if the council is looking for a downtown, they need to
6 look at that and decide. You know what 17 feet is; and if it's
7 full foliage, you know that's not what a downtown look like.

8 And for the residents, real quick, it's about the truth.
9 The truth of the matter is this: We don't -- there's nothing
10 wrong with the language or restrictive about the language. Own,
11 manage and operate does not mean that the businesses and the
12 Tiki can't be there. We're asking you if you voted to keep and
13 retain Newcomb Hall and the marina properties, go out and vote
14 no. Only a few of you will be contacted or confused by what
15 they are trying to say. But we know those who are not. Please
16 vote no on the marina issue --

17 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Thank you.

18 MS. HUBBARD: -- on the March 8th ballot.

19 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Thank you. Pamela Williams.

20 MS. WILLIAMS: Good evening.

21 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Good evening.

22 MS. WILLIAMS: My name is Pamela Williams and I live at
23 1572 West 33rd Street, Riviera Beach.

24 Seems like we all have the same thought tonight. I would
25 like to thank you all for approving the ballot question that

1 will go on our March 8 ballot. I believe that it's going to
2 eliminate all the confusion. And yes this time will mean yes,
3 and no will mean no.

4 Now I want to bring you back to how we got here. All of
5 this happened because we did not want to lease a third of the
6 marina. Not sell, but lease a third of the marina. If we were
7 able to do that, we probably could have worked all of this out.
8 But that was not the case. And when someone leases the
9 property, any improvement that they make will be our
10 improvement, because when they move on, that property is still
11 ours, and the material that they used to improve it will still
12 be ours. So I don't know how that got so confused.

13 In addition to that, I know that if we had allowed this
14 company to come in, other businesses would have come as well.
15 And when they came, they would have supported Rybovich. And we
16 would have had other businesses like restaurants, like
17 detailing, like engine repair. And the money we would have
18 gained, we could have trained other people to work on those
19 boats and get some skills. But some people here only want to
20 live and play, and not work. So that's one of the problems that
21 we have.

22 Now, I need to talk about something that bothers me a
23 little bit. Last week we had a young lady come up, she was
24 Caucasian and white and lived on Singer Island, and she spoke
25 about the affluent people on Singer Island and the at risk

1 children here on the mainland. Then we had a black gentleman
2 come up and he spoke about the Jim Crow laws. Now both of them
3 pulled the race card. Let's just call it what it is, because
4 everybody is tippy-toeing around it, and I don't plan to do so.
5 We live in a very diverse community, and we're not going back,
6 we're going forward. And people need to get over it. It's no
7 time to keep pulling back; we're not going to be pushed, pulled
8 or threatened; and we're not going to use words to divide the
9 races. We can't do that anymore. So we are going to live here,
10 and we're going to work together, or we're all going to perish
11 together. So I needed to bring that up, because I'm not going
12 to tiptoe, and you can't keep coming up here using words and
13 think people don't know what you're saying.

14 I also wanted to tell you that we need jobs. Everybody
15 knows that.

16 Thank you. Vote on March 8th.

17 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: John Sprague.

18 MR. SPRAGUE: For the record, when I was listening --

19 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Hold on.

20 MR. SPRAGUE: John Sprague, 10918 Larch Court, Palm Beach
21 Gardens, Florida.

22 Listening to the conversation about the banners, banners
23 are really neat, they set the stage. But one question I have
24 is, while we're working with CRA staff in future, in branding
25 and those kinds of issues, I question whether 13th Street

1 shouldn't be a name that catches into the marina area, whether
2 it's Harbor Boulevard or, you know, something, Marina Boulevard,
3 something that leads to our city marina; and that maybe we want
4 to slow this a little bit and kind of look as to whether or not
5 that name change will add to the marketing and the ambience of
6 what we're trying to create at the water, and then the banner
7 would reflect that. Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Thank you. Good idea.

9 Amon Yisrael.

10 MR. YISRAEL: Good evening. Amon Yisrael, Riviera Beach,
11 Florida.

12 Chair and council. For the residents that were told that
13 we were going to lose Newcomb Hall, I'm glad that the CRA is
14 moving forward and it's public knowledge now that we are in the
15 process of building a new Newcomb Hall. So that's clear for the
16 public to know that was never the case, now it's public
17 knowledge that we're moving ahead with that.

18 I also would like to note, for the public to know that no
19 one that opposed the Rybovich deal, all those that opposed it,
20 no one has ever went to the people that did the economic impact
21 study and asked the question, how did you come up with the 5,000
22 jobs tri-county, or the 410 million dollars tri-county. No one
23 has ever asked council how, if 410 million dollars is on the
24 table, how can we keep that money or what should we do to keep
25 the majority of that money, or keep the majority of the jobs in

1 Riviera Beach. I think when you have 410 million dollars on the
2 table, that should be part of the community discussion.

3 We have over 2,000 people that's unemployed in Riviera
4 Beach. And Riviera Beach citizens need to know they're being
5 told that Rybovich will not bring black people, black people are
6 not qualified, et cetera, et cetera. I personally have been on
7 Rybovich premises on several occasions; the most expensive
8 equipment at Rybovich, which is probably three to five million
9 dollars, to operate the lift, is operated by a person who is
10 concerned with color, a black person. There are several people
11 that work there that are black. I've talked to several of their
12 employees personally, and they feel that Rybovich is a very good
13 place and they don't understand what really the problems are.

14 I just invite the public, when comments are being made, to
15 do research; do not vote on this based on emotions. If we
16 really don't want Rybovich, that's fine. But we need to have
17 clear language and vote yes March 8th.

18 And the language is unclear. What is the problem? Give
19 the community the opportunity to vote the way they really feel.

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: All right. That's the end of public
22 comment. Report by the executive director.

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Madam Chair, members of the
24 board, I just have a couple quick comments. One, to let you
25 know that our plan for the February 23rd meeting is intended to

1 be a workshop; and we're meeting tomorrow with legal and members
2 of city staff to talk about the process of going through a
3 competitive design Charette for Newcomb Hall.

4 We intend to cancel the meetings in March. And so I guess
5 for the public, we do not intend to have any CRA meetings for
6 the month of March; and our next CRA meeting is anticipated for
7 April 13th. And looking at the list, I think we'll have a
8 robust agenda.

9 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Mr. Haygood, do you have anything for
10 us?

11 MR. HAYGOOD: No, ma'am.

12 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Anything from the board?

13 COMMISSIONER THOMAS: Yes, I have something quick. I was
14 going to wait until the city council meeting to address this but
15 because I have been inundated with so many calls in reference to
16 these water bills, I want to put out publicly that Singer Island
17 does not have a different water bill schedule than anyone else
18 in this city. What you are being told is not quite certain.
19 There is an ordinance that we tried to fight, that deals with
20 Palm Beach Shores, in saying that their water bill has to be the
21 same as the City of Riviera Beach's. It's not that Singer
22 Island has a different water bill than anyone else. Everyone
23 pays per gallon, how many gallons, that's how it's done if you
24 are a Riviera Beach resident.

25 Please adjust my mic so that everyone can hear me.

1 We do provide water to other cities, Palm Beach Shores is
2 one, Gramercy Park is another. And with Gramercy Park, we have
3 a surcharge that we add on to the bills. Because of something
4 that happened many, many years ago with the town of Palm Beach
5 Shores, we have an agreement that they won't be charged the
6 surcharge. But whatever our water bills are, that's the same
7 thing that everyone else will pay. So I want to dispel that
8 rumor.

9 I don't know if it's just election propoganda, whatever it
10 is, but that is absolutely not the truth. And normally I try
11 to, the people who bring that, I try to address that with them,
12 but because there have been several calls about that, I wanted
13 to make sure that, you know, we laid that out. And I'll address
14 it again at the city council meeting. But just so everyone
15 knows, there is no such thing as Singer Island having a
16 different water bill than anyone else, or anywhere else in the
17 city; and no member up here would ever allow for anything like
18 that to happen.

19 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: As a Singer Island resident, I'll
20 attest to that. And we have Mr. Murphy in the audience, who
21 also lives on Singer Island. When the city increased the rates,
22 my rate increased, Mr. Murphy's rate increased, and everyone
23 else on Singer Island; we pay the same as everyone else.

24 I have a couple of comments. On Saturday I met with the
25 senior management at Viking Yachts, and they were telling me the

1 good things that was going on in their company. And I had asked
2 them about 21st Street. As you all know, about six or seven
3 months ago we gave up the right-of-way, like 90 feet of
4 right-of-way on 21st Street, and that has allowed Viking to
5 expand. And since we gave up that right-of-way, they hired I
6 think it was 13 or 14 new employees; employees making a very
7 good living, with health care benefits and everything. You
8 know, and that just goes to show that that's what happens when
9 you have the city and, you know, private business working
10 together.

11 Someone made a comment about false hope, false hope at the
12 marina if we were to lease out the marina and lease it to Viking
13 or whomever, we were just giving false hope to the residents.
14 And that's not true. That is not true at all.

15 Leasing out the third of the marina was all about two
16 things: Bringing career opportunities, not seven dollar an hour
17 jobs, career opportunities to our residents, and income to the
18 city. And that's what it was all about. So you know, everyone
19 please remember that, it was never about false hope. I don't
20 think any of us are giving out false hope to our residents.

21 Mr. Brown, I have something for you. I heard that there is
22 a community boating group that was put together and you guys are
23 discussing possibly doing a community boating center and maybe
24 leasing space or something to them over at Newcomb Hall. Is
25 that group also under the Sunshine? Are their minutes available

1 for that?

2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Madam Chair, you asked several
3 questions. As I've seen in the conceptual plans for the marina,
4 ideas for a boating center, I convened a group of local
5 stakeholders, most of whom address youth organizations, Boys and
6 Girls Club, The Marine Academy, and the Riviera Beach Youth
7 Association, along with Commissioner Lowe, to ask the question,
8 what is a community boating center; and should such a program be
9 developed in the City of Riviera Beach. That group was an
10 informal group that I gathered to understand this concept and to
11 determine if there was interest from the organizations in our
12 city that serve our local youth.

13 We have had two meetings. And I discovered at that first
14 meeting that there was a resounding yes for interest to assure
15 that youth and families would have access to our waterfront.
16 The notion of a community boating program was one which the
17 group felt needed further definition.

18 We have since, given the authority I have under my
19 procurement guideline, hired a consultant to work with a group
20 of local youth providers to explore further how we might create
21 a program where our local stakeholders could allow for aquatic
22 activities to occur at our waterfront, whether through our
23 marina or through other facilities, to determine if we could
24 create such a program and provide for the quality of life.

25 I would say that I'm not prepared to go into discussions

1 further with what that program is; that we intend to bring that
2 to the board as for what I would call a check point, to see if
3 the notion of a community boating program or aquatic center or
4 waterfront access, whatever you want to call it, should be
5 further explored as a CRA program, or a city program, or
6 independent program, with the intent of ensuring that our
7 families and our youth can enjoy either boating experience, a
8 sailing experience, or basically a water recreational activity
9 experience.

10 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Who is the consultant?

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: We have hired Harry Horgan of
12 Shake-a-Leg, the executive director of Shake-a-Leg, to help us
13 formulate that plan.

14 COMMISSIONER THOMAS: I just have a quick question, if you
15 don't mind.

16 So often things like this -- this is the first I'm hearing
17 about this, but somebody in the community is going to say that
18 we have a committee going on. This is the second time that I've
19 heard about a committee tonight. And I don't ever remember that
20 being brought in front of the board.

21 Being that you have a board representative, Commissioner
22 Lowe there, I mean I think that all of us should be privy to
23 this. I don't necessarily agree with the way that this is being
24 done. You know, we are a board that should know what's going on
25 within the CRA. And this is not a micromanagement comment; this

1 is just basically saying when you involve individuals inside the
2 community to whom -- which are constituents of us, we should
3 know what's going on. That's the second board or second
4 committee that I've heard tonight. I mean I know Mr. Lowe was
5 aware, because you said he was a part of the meeting; but I
6 don't remember any of that coming across my desk, or being
7 notified of that. And I'm just not in agreement with not
8 knowing what type of things are going on. And the fact that it
9 has some seriousness to it, because you just said that you're
10 expending funds on a consultant, you know. So those are issues
11 that I think need to be brought before the board.

12 I also heard you say that you're not prepared to go any
13 further with that. And that may be fine tonight. But tomorrow
14 I would like to make sure that you reach out to me, and explain
15 to me in depth what's going on with this board, so that we can
16 make sure that we have clarity to that.

17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Mr. Thomas, having formed a
18 board, I would like to think it is within my discretion to put
19 together any representative group of community and business
20 interests to give me guidance to fulfill my responsibilities as
21 your executive director.

22 There have been concepts discussed of a community boating
23 program; and I put together a representative group that I
24 thought could give me guidance and direction as to whether or
25 not such a program should be part of the quality of life

1 offering of our city. It is our intent, and the contract
2 requires the consultant to talk to each one of you, in
3 understanding if such a program should be developed; and if not,
4 why not. It is not my intent to create a program or to have
5 dialogue to keep you uninformed, and that in this case the work
6 of the consultant and the work plan is for him to have direct
7 dialogue with each of you.

8 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: I'll tell you what my problem is with
9 this: We're paying this guy, we're paying Harry Horgan from
10 Shake-a-Leg to consult with us. And he was in front of us about
11 three years ago, asking for us to give him Bicentennial Park,
12 because he wanted to build a facility there and have a
13 Shake-a-Leg program there. I just have a problem with someone
14 like him asking to be paid. If we are looking at a community
15 boating center, then he will most definitely be part of the
16 program, right, the Shake-a-Leg program will come in in some
17 form; so you would think that he would just be an active
18 participant in this committee, just like the rest of the
19 committee members.

20 But to turn around and -- you know, it's just like everyone
21 comes in here and everyone wants to get paid. That's my problem
22 with it. Everyone wants to get paid. At the end of the day,
23 everyone wants to get paid. Doesn't anyone do anything for
24 free?

25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: I think that's an unfair

1 comment. At that meeting that I convened with community
2 stakeholders, that included Carl Boldin from the Boys and Girls
3 Club, Dan Callaway from the Riviera Youth Association, George
4 Carter from the Marine Academy, at the conclusion of our
5 committee meeting it was they who recommended that Mr. Horgan be
6 hired to help formulate a business plan to move the program
7 forward.

8 He did not ask. Mr. Lowe did not request. It was our
9 representative group who endorsed the concept and felt that
10 Mr. Horgan was highly qualified to help both define a program,
11 determine if the resources would be available to sustain it, and
12 to determine if the community would support it. So I would
13 conclude this as a feasibility study; and we will deliver a
14 report; and it is your prerogative to accept the report and give
15 us direction to move it forward or to kill it.

16 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: With all due respect, if these people
17 want to tell you how to spend the money, then they should be
18 running for election and they should become the commission;
19 because at the end of the day, we are the ones that are
20 responsible for these dollars.

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Madam Chair, you approved a
22 budget that included a community feasibility study, so you have
23 authorized me to in the budget examine a community boating
24 program. It was presented in our budget. Thus the authority
25 was provided for us to examine and present to you a feasibility

1 study. So this is not new.

2 CHAIRPERSON FARDO: Fine. But we are in the dark. You
3 have one commissioner that knows what's going on and the rest of
4 us do not.

5 And if you all remember, when I was able to engage Rybovich
6 and all of the rest of the waterfront owners, trying to get
7 something going, there were some members of the council whose
8 nose was totally out of joint because they weren't aware of what
9 was going on. Well, if it's good for one person, it's good for
10 the other.

11 So as the chair person of the CRA, if we are going to
12 expend money on a consultant, I want to know what the consultant
13 is doing. I want a report. And I, for one, sir, with all due
14 respect, am not going to wait until, you know, things move
15 along. I want to know what's going on, and what exactly is
16 going on in these meetings.

17 Mr. Lowe.

18 COMMISSIONER LOWE: Yes. Thank you. It's just hard to sit
19 in place sometimes here. The hypocrisy and the double standard
20 that goes on along this board, it's just terrible, it's
21 terrible.

22 We wouldn't even have five million dollars if it wasn't for
23 access. It's about access, people, it's about people and having
24 access to the water.

25 And this is one of the last pieces in Palm Beach County

1 that we have to offer a program that addresses the needs of
2 everybody, not just a few; and that should be priority.

3 But an issue like this, you want to beat in the ground and
4 find every excuse to say, well, I don't know about this, and I
5 don't know about that. You know everything that goes on around
6 here; because you deflect stuff, you intercept stuff; so don't
7 play this game to the public. That is not true, that is not
8 right.

9 And to make people look bad, especially Mr. Horgan, whose
10 reputation is statewide -- not only statewide but nationwide, in
11 terms of the things he's done for disabled kids and kids in
12 general; and to mix his name up in some kind of scheme and say
13 that he's involved in -- that's just, that's just -- I mean
14 we've gone too far, you know.

15 One element of that area, that whole particular area, is
16 public access. And people tend to forget about that. We would
17 be minus five million dollars right now if it wasn't for the
18 concept of public access and public boating. And what part of
19 that is so hard to understand?

20 And that was before all of this other conversation about,
21 you know, the impact of Rybovich and its coming here. Well,
22 people have their own interpretation.

23 I just look at the numbers, I look at the data; I look when
24 the business is coming here, who's going to be involved. And if
25 you look at the numbers and you know how to interpret data, and

1 you just know how to think, critical thinking, people, you'll
2 know that some things aren't adding up.

3 But I digress. I'm talking about a community boating
4 program that brings disabled kids, disadvantaged kids, folks
5 that don't have opportunity to enjoy the water, it provides an
6 opportunity for them.

7 Where is all the suspect? What is all this about? Where
8 does it come from? Is it coming from me?

9 I've dealt with this, you know, since I've been up here.
10 But I can deal with that.

11 But my whole purpose is to make sure that people like me,
12 kids, youth, and anybody who wants to have access to that water,
13 have it. And that's my primary concern right now.

14 So, you know, I try to sit over here and stay neutral and
15 just try to focus on the facts and the issues. I try to leave
16 personalities out of it, because that fluctuates, and people are
17 here for you today, and tomorrow they're doing something else.

18 That's what I'm focusing on, is the issue. And the issue
19 right here -- there is no underhandedness, there is no
20 sneakiness, there is none of that involved. We're trying to
21 make sure, at the end of the day, that the children don't get
22 left out and the people don't get left out. It's just that
23 simple.

24 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Madam Chair.

25 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: I just want to say something. I'm

1 sorry, Ms. Brooks.

2 I'm not accusing anyone of being deceptive or, you know,
3 the comment about intercepting something -- and I know my stuff
4 is intercepted. I don't intercept anyone's stuff.

5 At the end of the day, like I said, I have a right to know
6 if these funds are being expended, I have every right to know
7 what's going on.

8 Ms. Brooks.

9 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Well, we know that, speaking on this
10 issue that we're getting to a little bit of discourse about, we
11 know that with council this is really a passion for him, it's a
12 project that he has been working on for several months. And I
13 don't want us to lose focus on the good that can come from this.
14 And if it means that, for us to move peacefully forward with
15 this, and that we're all informed, then I would say just as a
16 small matter, just to send a memo out saying that there is a
17 meeting or whatever and if it's okay, persons want to attend,
18 then they just attend. People sometimes get a feeling of
19 distrust if they're not involved in something, and that's just
20 human nature. But for now, I just think that we just need to go
21 forward with the feasibility study and get back with us and let
22 us look at the good that can come from all of this.

23 We all want to be informed. I guess we should be informed,
24 in however way that you, Mr. Brown, can do it, just do it. We
25 don't want anything to stop anything good that could come from

1 this project. And we certainly want to respect the chair. And
2 the chair should always, along with the other members, know
3 what's going on.

4 So can we agree to go forward with the feasibility study on
5 this?

6 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: That was already going on.

7 COMMISSIONER THOMAS: I still would like a phone call
8 tomorrow in reference to being brought up on this matter. No
9 one is fighting it, you know. We all, you know, have to make
10 decisions on this board, and we just all want to be involved in
11 it.

12 So I'm not saying anybody is trying to do anything
13 underhanded. I just would like to make sure that I'm aware of
14 what's going on. So I'll expect that phone call tomorrow.

15 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: I think at some point we need to
16 bring back to the commission this matter about the FDOT. It's
17 been quite a while since there was a presentation on what was
18 being presented. And I think there is a new interest that it's
19 generated by folks wondering what is going on with that Broadway
20 matter with the FDOT. So at some point perhaps we should have a
21 recap of what was presented to the commission some time ago.

22 And to the Executive Director, I do want to applaud you for
23 what you're trying to do, to move forward to get some money for
24 capital improvements. It shows that we are moving forward no
25 matter what.

1 I do want to applaud you and also your staff for getting
2 the people involved in this banner project. People got excited
3 when they get involved and make a difference or contributing
4 something to the citizens, so I want to applaud you on that.

5 And I hope that persons, if they are looking at the CRA,
6 will be mindful that certainly we do need jobs; and I think that
7 we are working very hard as commissioners to work with our
8 businesses, our small businesses, we're focusing on helping them
9 to retain their business and to expand their business. And this
10 is something that I hope that the public understands; when we
11 have BRIC and they've been out and we've been getting
12 applications for and approving for monies, grants to help our
13 businesses. When businesses expand, they hire.

14 Lastly, Ezra -- I guess he's gone. Mr. Saffold made a good
15 point. And I think you will find that our commissioners are
16 very adamant about looking at local talent. We didn't just
17 start doing this; I mean we did it on the city's side. We're
18 saying look at local vendors. Of course I've gotten the
19 response that sometimes local vendors cost a little bit more;
20 but when we look at that they are investing also into our city,
21 that we still have a commitment to look at our local vendors
22 when we have need for bids.

23 I know that we're moving very positive in the right
24 direction on all of these matters. I just hope that the people
25 understand it and won't get all confused in the mess and the

1 misstatements, and look at the good that we're trying to do and
2 the good that we have done and the good that we will do.

3 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Thank you. Okay. Mr. Brown, thank you
4 very much. Good meeting.

5 Do we have a motion to adjourn?

6 MS. BROOKS: So move.

7 COMMTSSIONER THOMAS: So move.

8 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Thank you, everyone.

9 (Proceedings concluded at 8:04 p.m.)

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E .

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

THE STATE OF FLORIDA)
)
COUNTY OF PALM BEACH)

I, Claudia Price Witters, Registered Professional Reporter,
certify that I was authorized to and did report the foregoing
proceedings at the time and place herein stated, and that the
foregoing is a true and correct transcription of my stenotype
notes taken during said proceedings.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 15th
day of February, 2011.



CLAUDIA PRICE WITTERS
Registered Professional Reporter

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 P.M. The minutes were approved by the Board of Commissioners on _____.

Dawn S. Pardo, Chairperson

Executive Director Tony Brown

/cw
Florida Court Reporting