

MINUTES

CITY OF COCOA MAYOR'S TOWN HALL MEETING

February 19, 2019

The Mayor's Town Hall Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at the Cocoa Civic Center, 430 Delannoy Ave., Cocoa, Florida, as publicly noticed.

I. OPENING MATTERS:

Mayor Jake Williams, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

Present:	Jake Williams, Jr.	Mayor
	Brenda Warner	Deputy Mayor
	Don Boisvert	Councilmember
	Alex Goins	Councilmember
	Lorraine Koss	Councilmember
	John Titkanich, Jr.	City Manager
	Matt Fuhrer	Assistant City Manager
	Monica Arsenault	Assistant City Clerk

Other staff members present:

Ed Wegerif, Public Works Director; Katie Ennis, Deputy Utilities Director; Jonathan Lamm, Deputy Fire Chief; Nancy Bunt, Community Services Director; Rebecca Bowman, Finance Director; Tammy Gemmati, Administrative Services Director; Samantha Senger, Assistant to the City Manager/PR Specialist; and Mike Cantaloupe, Police Chief.

II. Discussion Topics

1. Department Presentations

Mayor Williams introduced all Council members and City Manager Titkanich introduced all City staff members present.

City Manager Titkanich announced that there is a scam where individuals are claiming to be City of Cocoa Utility workers and are asking to enter citizen's homes to test the water. He explained that all Cocoa employees will be in uniform, will have a badge, and do not typically enter homes at all. He encouraged everyone to be aware of this issue and to not let these scammers into their homes.

City Manager Titkanich provided a presentation¹. He shared before and after photos of the three new Fire Stations as well as photos of Riverfront Park before and after Hurricane Irma. City Manager Titkanich briefly discussed the future of the waterfront area and explained that the Cocoa CRA reallocated funds for Lee Wenner Park.

Furthermore, he shared information regarding the new Dr. Joe Lee Smith Center and shared a photo of the design. The new center will be built in place of the old one. He also added that Council recently celebrated the completion of the Stone Street Streetscaping project at the Grand Opening event.

City Manager Titkanich mentioned some of the City's upcoming projects such as the Villas of Cocoa Village which will have sixty-four (64) townhomes with amenities as well as the Cottages at Cocoa Village which will be developed across the street from the Villas. Lastly, staff is working towards having a Cocoa Village gateway feature erected at the corner of Florida Avenue and SR520.

City Manager Titkanich pointed out that one hundred twenty-five (125) new businesses have opened in Cocoa and eight hundred four (804) new full time jobs have been created. Furthermore, several large projects were completed in 2018 such as the Mike Erdman Dealership and the Wal-Mart Distribution Center, with more to come in 2019 such as Lakeside Palms, the Villas of Cocoa Village and the Cottages at Cocoa Village.

He noted that the population in Cocoa has grown to nineteen thousand two hundred eighty-six (19,286) citizens which is a seventeen and a half percent (17.5%) increase in population since 2010.

City Manager Titkanich advised of other events and projects that are on the horizon such as Lakeside Palm West, future phases of Adamson Creek, Cocoa Grand, the Stormwater Capital Improvements Plan and the Fiske Corridor improvements. He added that Habitat for Humanity is having a Groundbreaking ceremony at 9am on February 25, 2019 at 470 Whaley St., Cocoa for the Female Veteran's Homebuild Project.

In regards to responsible fiscal management, City Manager Titkanich pointed out that the City was assigned Moody's Aa2 rating and the City was also upgraded from AA (stable) to AA (positive). Additionally, the City also received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. He encouraged everyone to

¹ Exhibit A: Mayor's Town Hall Meeting

come out on Thursday, March 14th for the Budget Kick-off Workshop that will be held in Council Chambers.

Lastly, City Manager Titkanich reminded everyone that Council meeting nights are on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. He announced the Town Hall meeting dates for the year as well as information for an upcoming FDOT Public Meeting that will take place on Tuesday, March 5th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Cocoa First Assembly of God Church.

Mayor Williams expressed that he has been a Cocoa resident for fifteen (15) years and has a lot of love for the community and the citizens. He stated that he has seen many changes take place over the years. He mentioned that he had previously worked with abused children and coached both youth football and basketball as he is a strong believer in making a difference in the community. He added that he became involved in government in the late 1990s and sat on the Code Enforcement Board before becoming a member of Council.

Mayor Williams referenced an article he had seen in the newspaper that talked about the City of Cocoa and stated that due to the City's limited budget, low income communities are not being tended to. Mayor Williams stated that this is not acceptable and expressed his frustration. He added this his goal is to improve these communities.

He discussed all of the challenges that Council has faced since the Swearing-In Ceremony in November. He pointed out that Council has been fighting Commissioners to keep CRAs, they have been trying to handle the accident that happened on Michigan Avenue and have been working towards the development of a hotel in Cocoa Village.

Mayor Williams discussed affordable housing in the community and mentioned that there are individuals who are taking advantage of tax deed sales and either flip or demolish these homes when the City could be flipping these homes instead and leaving them as affordable housing for residents.

Mayor Williams expressed his gratitude to the Code Enforcement Board but added that he feels too many liens are being forgiven that shouldn't be. He explained that some of the property owners that have Code cases against their properties add a little "makeup" to these homes and expect to have their liens completely forgiven, some of which have accrued to be thousands of dollars.

He also addressed the issue of homelessness within the City. He suggested that the Sharing Center, churches and various other organizations come together to help resolve this issue.

Mayor Williams pointed out that the City of Cocoa has the potential to be a great city as it provides water to the bulk of Brevard County and is also centrally located. He added that he loves the City and is very passionate about it.

Lastly, he shared that he attended the vigil of Ms. Tashaun Jackson with Councilmember Koss and Councilmember Goins and had the opportunity to meet Ms. Jackson's family.

Councilmember Koss added that she thinks there are a lot people that are passionate about the City. She expressed that the City is a diamond in the rough and she feels there are a lot of positive things that the City can build on.

Councilmember Goins spoke about the importance of unity and sharing healthy dialogues, even if there are disagreements. He stated that he believes that the City is moving in the right direction.

Furthermore, he thanked Chief Cantaloupe and his staff for the improvements along Peachtree Street and added that Cocoa is the heart of Brevard County and the City is striving towards greatness.

Councilmember Boisvert noted that things are well on the west side of Cocoa.

Deputy Mayor Warner shared that she became involved in government in 1994 because of her daughter. She encouraged all, especially parents, to be role models to children and make an effort in their community and join a board or serve in some way. She spoke about the younger generations and encouraged parents to teach their children the importance of serving their community and making a difference.

Additionally, she encouraged everyone to come have breakfast with Chief Cantaloupe in April.

2. Community Input

Ms. Pauline Eager, 115 Indian River Dr., Cocoa, asked if staff could look into resolving an issue with the sound system in Council Chambers. She explained that she has tried to watch the recordings of the Council meetings online at home but the audio is hard to hear.

Ms. Victoria Mitchner, Cocoa, thanked Mayor Williams, Councilmember Koss and Councilmember Goins for their hard work and for attending and supporting the beautification projects in the City.

Mr. Aleck Greenwood, 640 Brevard Ave., Cocoa, thanked Mayor Williams for his commitment and hard work.

Ms. Ella Green, 1101 Mitchell St., Cocoa, stated that she has been having problems with chickens roaming her neighborhood freely. She added that she has already notified Code Enforcement about the issue. She also has concerns about speeding cars traveling along her street. She explained that she has reached out to the Police Department but needs the issue to be resolved as there are children that live in the neighborhood and she is concerned for their safety.

Mr. Alton Edmond, Cocoa, inquired about the risk citizens may have in regards to individuals imitating Cocoa Utility workers and if any cases have been reported. In response, Ms. Senger explained that there have been no reported robberies or anything of that nature, just individuals trying to talk their way inside other people's homes.

Mr. Rip Dyal, 3807 Parapet Dr., Cocoa, encouraged all to volunteer if they can and mentioned that he is trying to bring the V-Cop program back up to where it used to be.

Mr. Ed Lanni, 939 N. Indian River Dr., Cocoa, also encouraged everyone to volunteer, especially if they are interested in being a V-Cop as it greatly helps the Cocoa Police Department. He also encouraged everyone to attend Council meetings and to voice their opinions on happenings in the City.

Sharon Smith, Miracle Life Kingdom Ministries, and relative of Ms. Tashaun Jackson, spoke about the importance of unity and coming together as one community to reach one common goal. She expressed that everyone needs to put their differences aside and look out for one another.

Ms. Theresa Clifton, Brevard Humane Society, announced that the Humane Society is conducting free cat neuters thanks to a state grant they received. Ms. Clifton also asked Council to consider having a discussion about possibly trying to curb "pet shop" type businesses from opening in the City as they typically bring in animals from up north, usually from animal mills. Ms. Clifton added that the Humane Society has plenty of resources and are able to provide education and training.

Lastly, Ms. Clifton shared information about rabies and explained that it can be transmitted by any red blooded animal. She warned every one of the dangers rabies can cause and encouraged all to educate themselves and to be cautious.

A citizen from Viera, who used to reside in Cocoa, explained the struggles of trying to find housing in Cocoa.

She suggested that all of the churches in Cocoa have their own Town Hall meetings and also encouraged the churches to unite and to make a difference in the community. She expressed that Cocoa has done a great job and she is not ashamed of Cocoa.

Mr. Brown, a business owner in Cocoa, moved his business from Cape Canaveral to Cocoa and is also a member of Celebration Tabernacle. He offered to help and support Cocoa in any way he can.

Mayor Williams asked Ms. Smith to share what the four children of Tashaun Jackson need. In response, Ms. Smith explained that the children need undergarments but the family is more than happy to accept anything that anyone is willing to give. She shared a contact phone number of 321-806-8072 and a GoFund Me page under the name of Justice for Tashaun for anyone that would like to donate. She thanked Mayor Williams, Councilmember Koss, Councilmember Goins and the Chief of Police for what they've done and the resources they have provided.

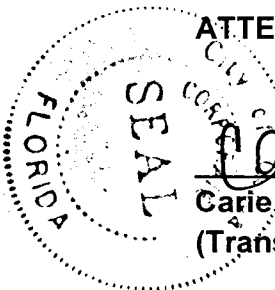
Mayor Williams presented Ms. Smith with a two hundred twenty (\$220.00) donation.

Mayor Williams thanked everyone for coming.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

- * The Town Hall Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

ATTEST:



Carie Shealy

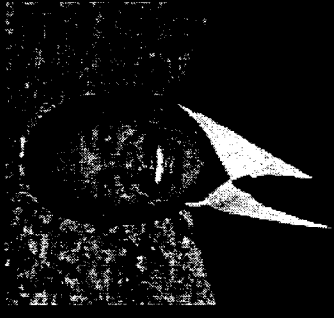
Carie Shealy, City Clerk

(Transcribed by Monica Arsenault, Assistant City Clerk)

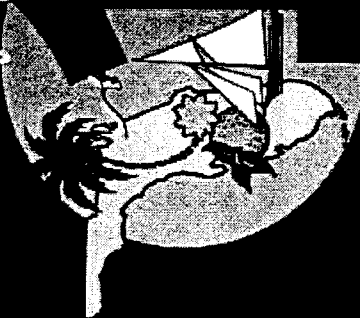
Jake Williams, Jr.
 Jake Williams, Jr., Mayor

Mayor Jake Williams, Jr.

Town Hall Meeting
February 19, 2019
Cocoa Civic Center



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INVESTING IN THE COMMUNITY

PUBLIC
SAFETY

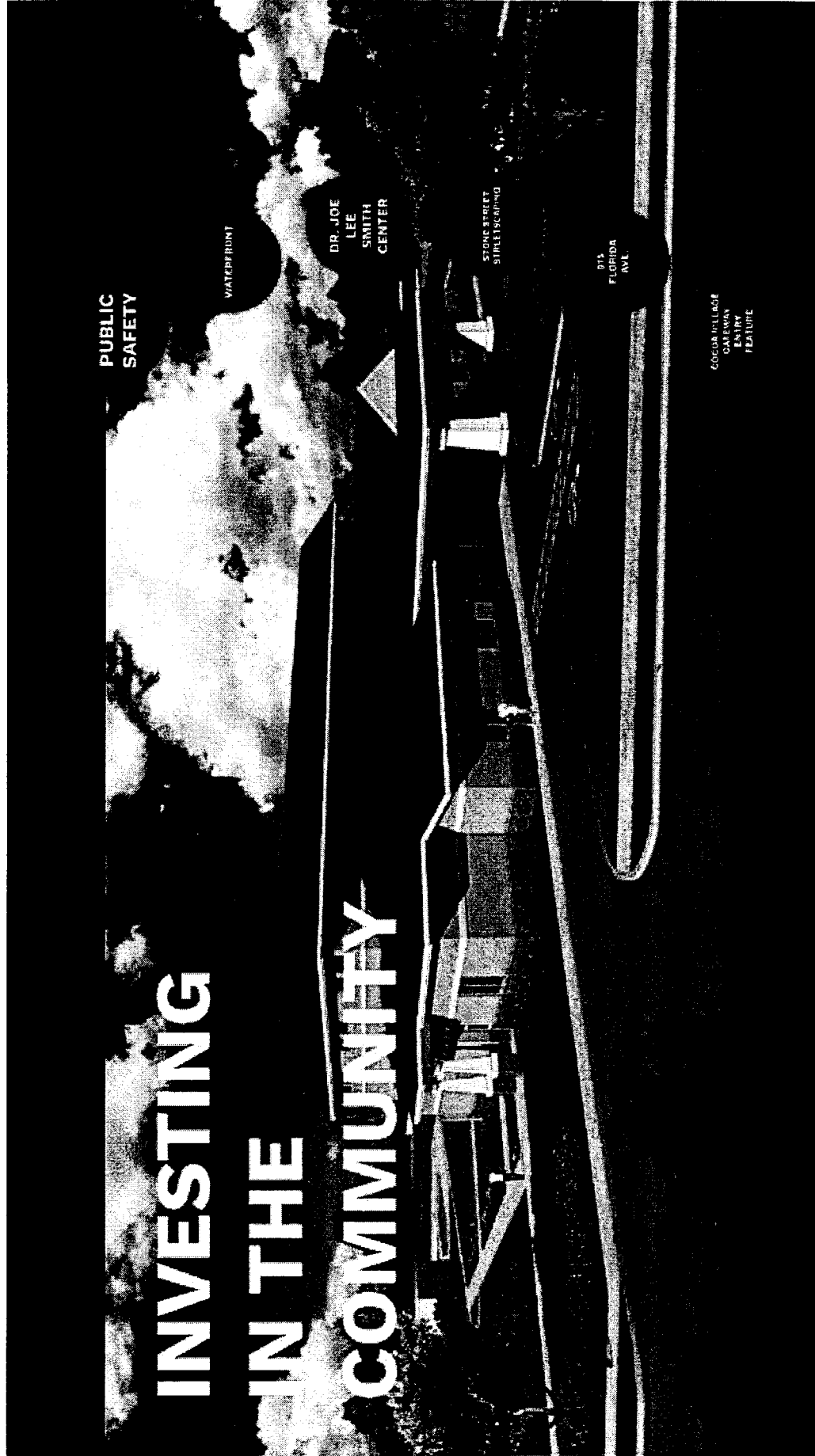
WATERFRONT

DR. JOE
LEE
SMITH
CENTER

STONE STREET
STREETSCAPING

915
FLORIDA
AVL

COCCA HILL
GATEWAY
ENTRY
FEATURE



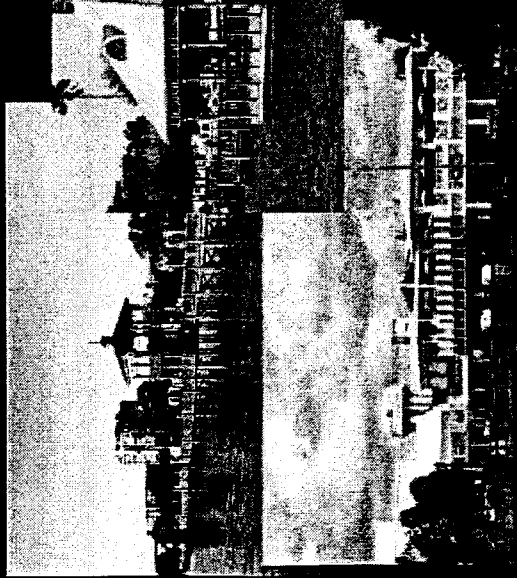
PUBLIC SAFETY

3 New Fire Stations

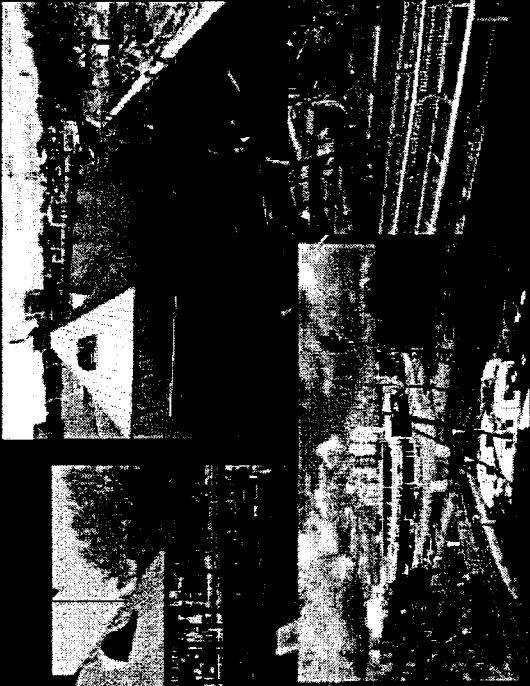


2018

WATERFRONT



BEFORE

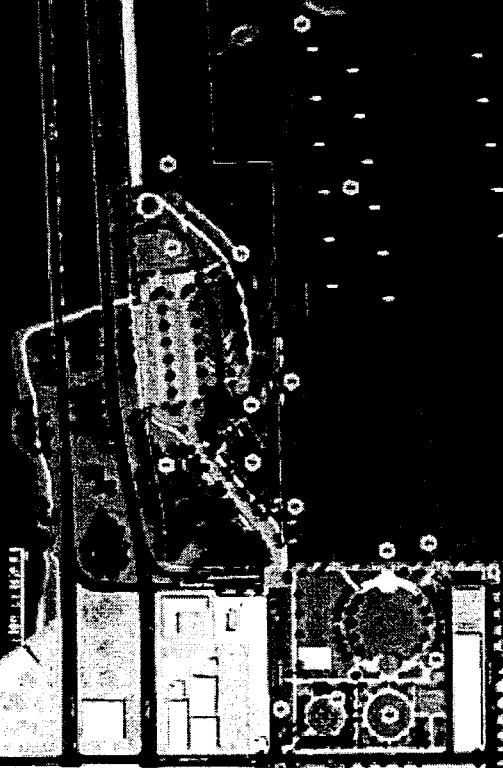
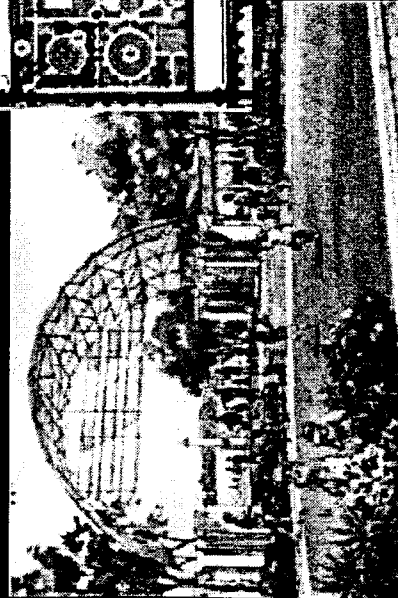
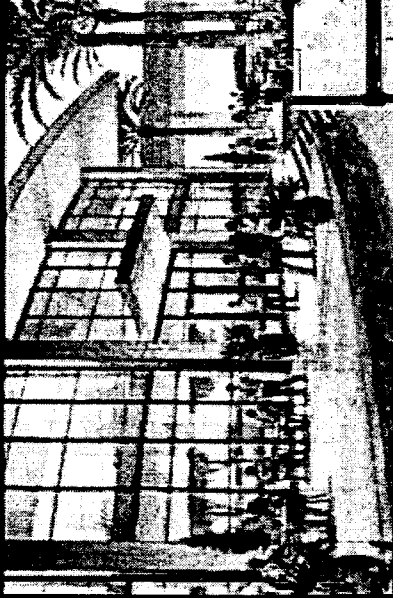
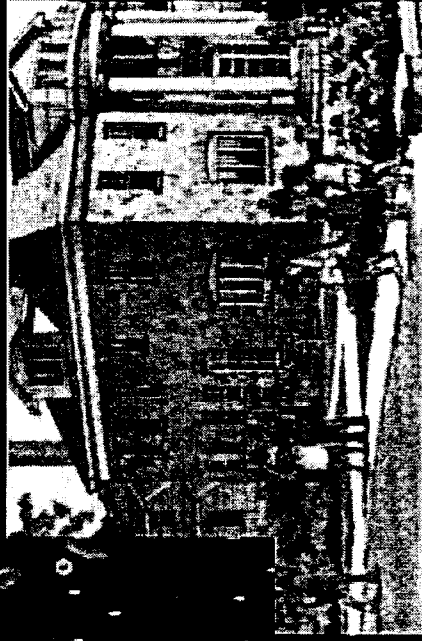
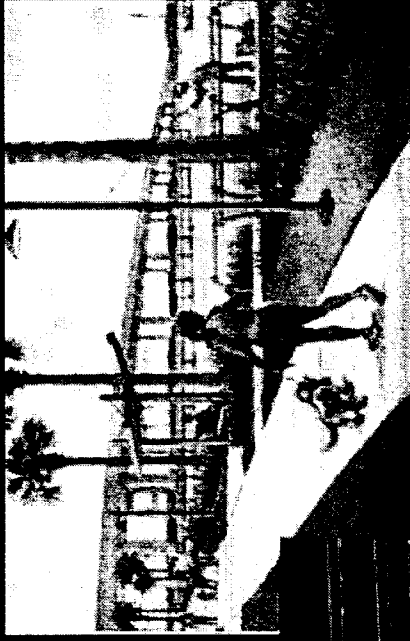


AFTER

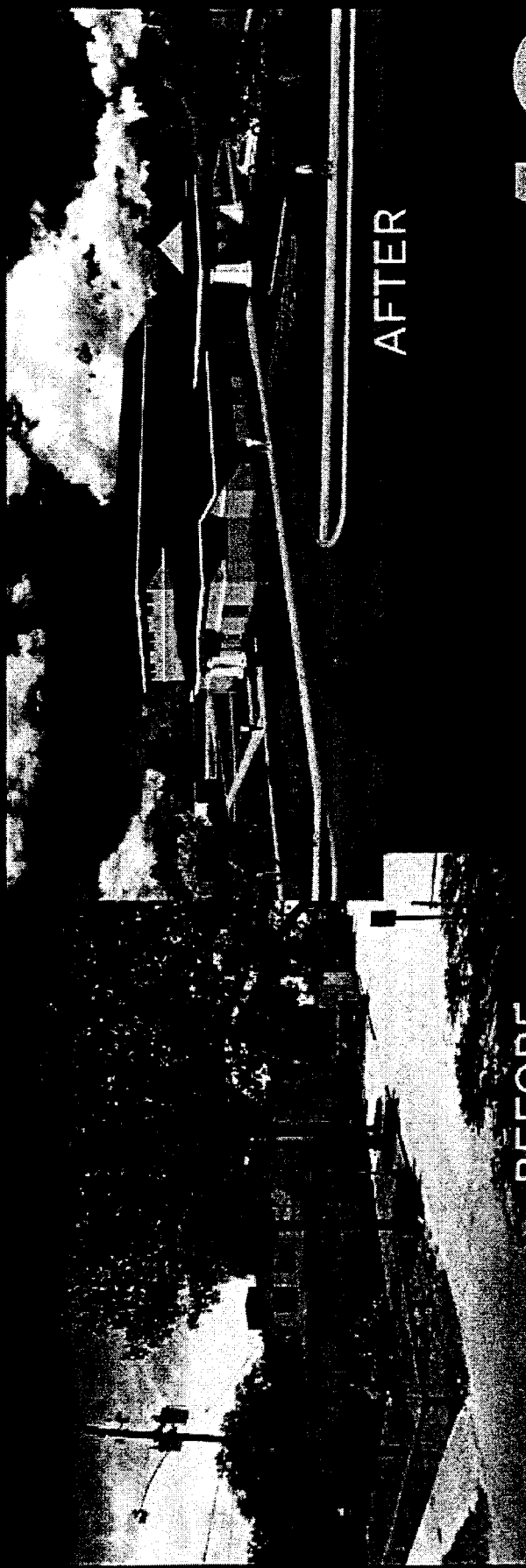
HURRICANE IRMA

2018

THE FUTURE



DR. JOE LEE SMITH CENTER

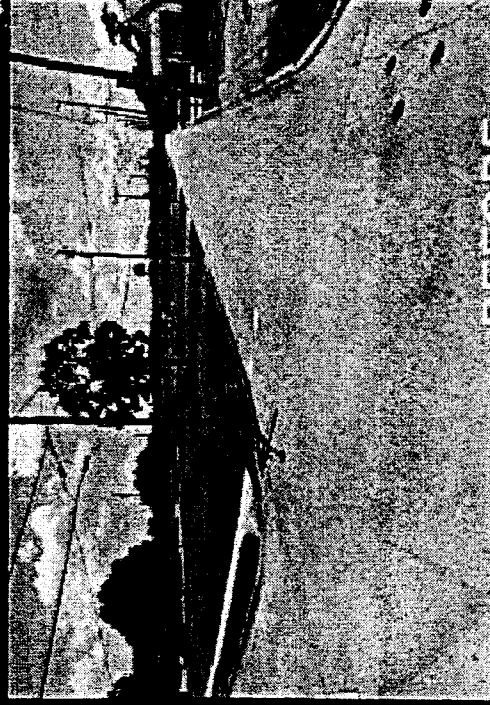


AFTER

BEFORE

2018

STONE STREET STREETSCAPING



BEFORE

AFTER



2018

915 FLORIDA AVENUE



BEFORE

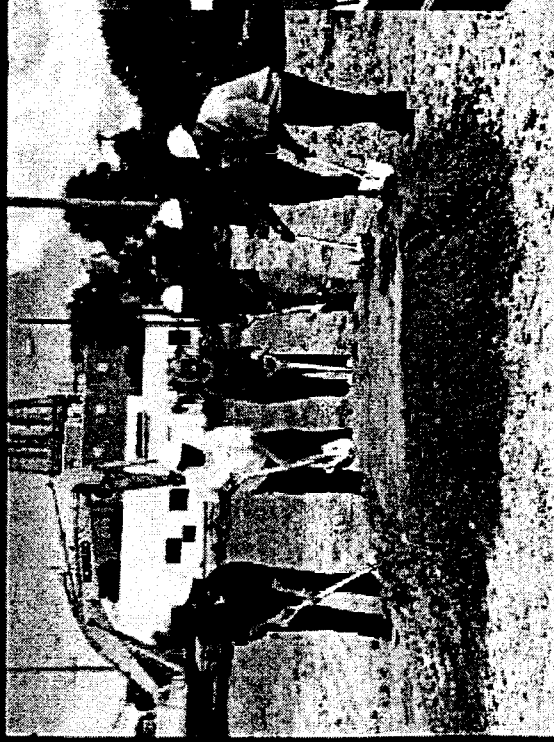
PROPOSED



2018



COTTAGES AT COCOA VILLAGE

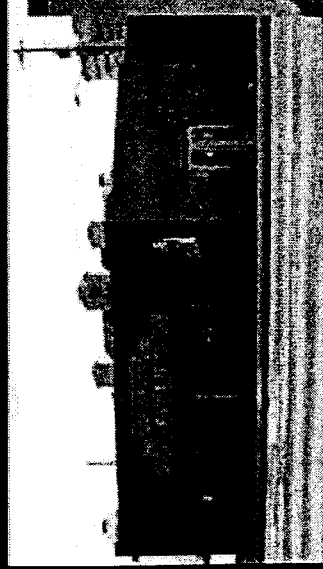


BEFORE



PROPOSED

CV GATEWAY ENTRY FEATURE



BEFORE



AFTER

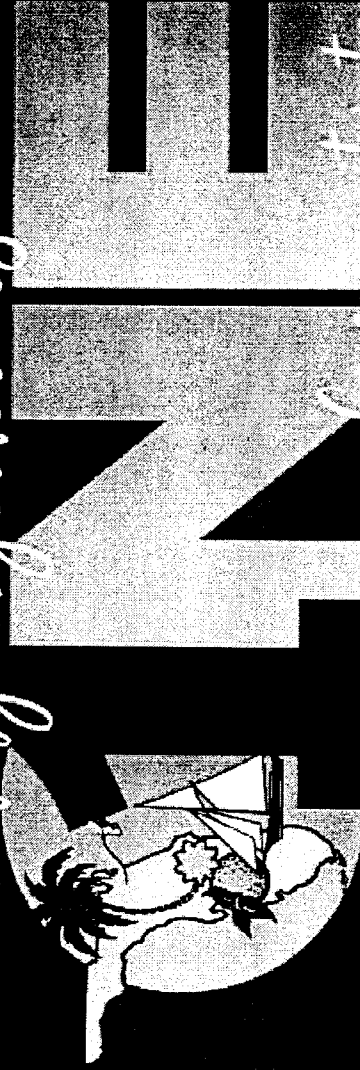
2018

Mayor Jake Williams, Jr.

Town Hall Meeting
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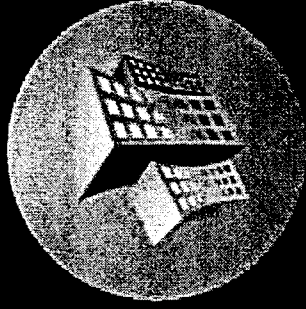
NEW DEVELOPMENT

New
Businesses
/Jobs

Development

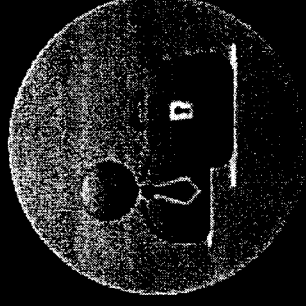


New Businesses/Jobs



125

New Businesses

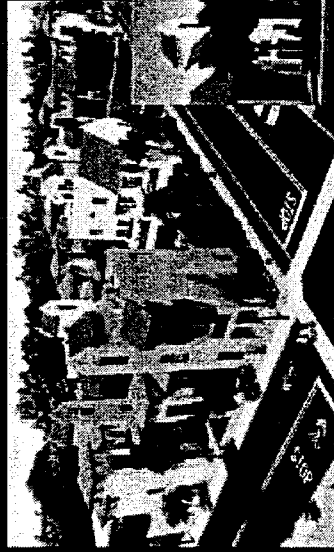
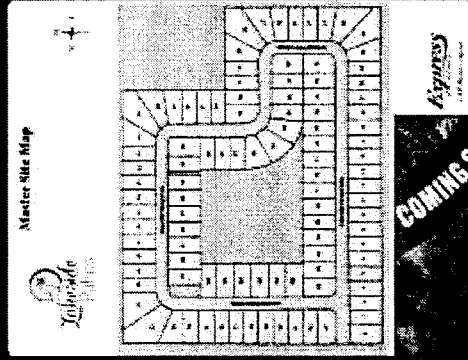
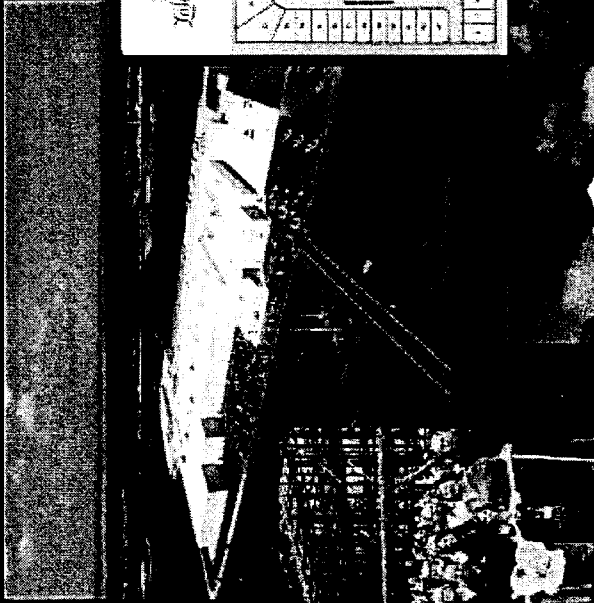
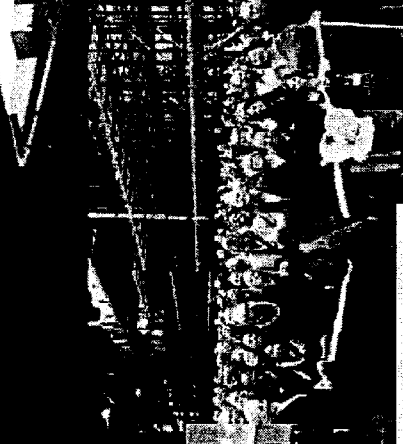


804

New Full-time Jobs

2018

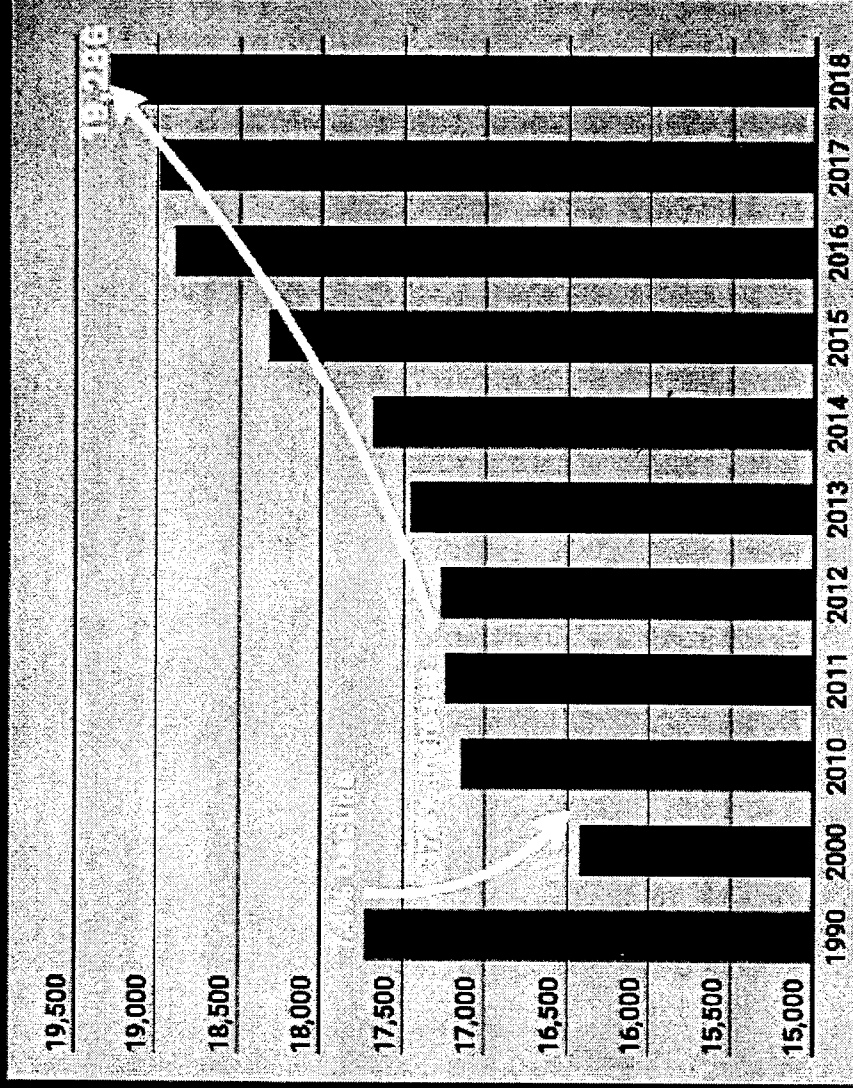
DEVELOPMENT



COMING SOON

2018

POPULATION GROWTH



ON THE HORIZON

- Lakeside Palm West
- Adamson Creek future phases
- Habitat for Humanity Female Veteran's Homebuild Project
- Cocoa Grand
- Stormwater Capital Improvements Plan
- Fiske Corridor Improvements



Habitat for Humanity
of Brevard County

Groundbreaking

Ceremony at 9AM
470 Whaley Street, Cocoa, FL 32922

Habitat for Humanity of Brevard County will kick off the first phase of construction of our Female Veterans Build with a groundbreaking ceremony on Monday, February 25 at 9 a.m. This ceremony marks a historic partnership with the City of Cocoa and Diamond Square CRA to build six single-family homes on Whaley Street, providing affordable housing in a typically under-served community.

FEB 25 2019

DIAMOND SQUARE
AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Guy & Delores Spearman

LEONARDO DRS



Mayor Jake Williams, Jr.

Town Hall Meeting
February 19, 2019
Cocoa Civic Center



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Responsible Fiscal Management



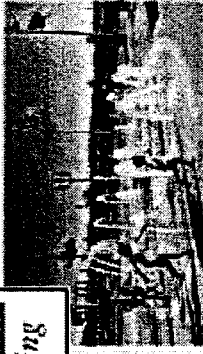
Assigned Aa2 rating



Upgraded from
AA(stable) to
AA(positive)



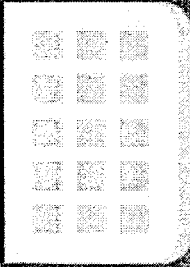
Certificate
of Achievement
FOR EXCELLENCE IN
Financial Reporting



Adopted Budget
Fiscal Year 2019
Fiscal Year 2019

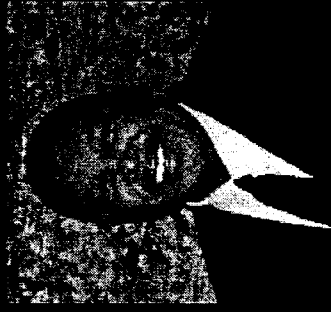
Budget Kick-off Workshop

Thursday, March 14th at 5:30pm
Council Chambers



Mayor Jake Williams, Jr.

Town Hall Meeting
February 19, 2019
Cocoa Civic Center



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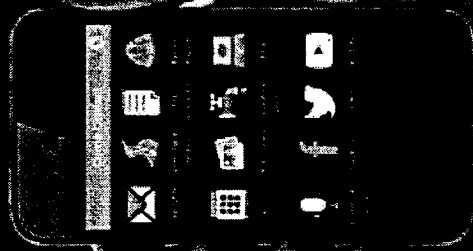


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www.ChooseCocoa.org

www.CocoaWaterWorks.com



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Cocoa City Council Meetings

2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month
Council Chambers, 65 Stone St., Cocoa



Town Hall Meetings

Mayor: Tuesday, February 19, 2019 - Cocoa Civic Center, 6pm

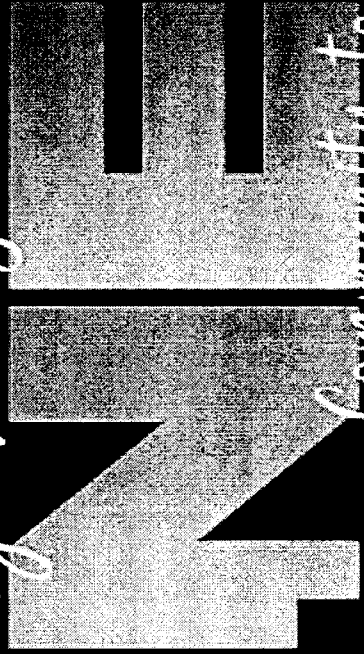
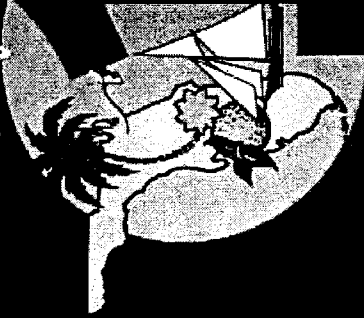
District 1: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 - Leon and Jewel Collins Museum/Moore Center, 6pm

District 2: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 - Cocoa Boys and Girls Club, 6pm

District 3: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 - Lost Lakes Clubhouse, 6pm

District 4: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 - Florida Solar Energy Center, 6pm

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Mayor Jake Williams, Jr.

Town Hall Meeting

February 19, 2019

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Mayor Jake Williams, Jr.

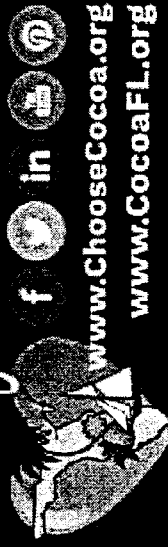
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