

*WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, January 12, 2011, for the purpose of holding a stakeholder meeting with Greenbelt clergy and other leaders of religious organizations.*

*Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. It was held in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Community Center.*

*PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Councilmember Edward V. J. Putens was unable to attend.*

*STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.*

*ALSO PRESENT WERE: Joy Allchin and Jim Fisher, Greenbelt Baha'i Community; Rev. Dan Hamlin, Greenbelt Community Church; Rev. Bobbi Troyer, Streetlights of Bethany; Rev. Tino Cione, Trinity Assembly of God; and Kevin Hammett, Community Relations Advisory Board.*

*Mayor Davis welcomed everyone to the work session and provided Greenbelt Welcome Packets. She asked if anyone had any particular concerns they would like to address.*

*Rev. Hamlin, Greenbelt Community Church, said he was very interested in the future of Greenbelt West, including the historic Greenbelt Middle School and the future redevelopment of Beltway Plaza. Mayor Davis mentioned the work being done by the Greenbelt Middle School Task Force and the upcoming work session with Fieldstone Properties within the next few months. Councilmembers agreed with the need for redevelopment at Beltway Plaza but explained the current plan being proposed was for the construction of apartments in the rear of the property and did not include a vision for the entire property.*

*Rev. Hamlin reported on the programs his congregation participates in including providing food to local food pantries and clothing to those in need, support of the local Good Samaritan and Emergency Relief Fund as well as the You Are Never Alone (YANA) program in Baltimore, and several other local, national and international programs. Mr. Fisher mentioned the outreach his congregation was doing for residents in Franklin Park.*

*Rev. Cione, Trinity Assembly of God, commented that many people want to help others but don't know how to do it. He said he is working with Rev. Troyer to offer a class to empower others on ways they can help those in need. There was discussion regarding the problem with getting word out on how and what items are needed for donations, as well as the programs that available to those in need. Mr. McLaughlin advised the City newsletter is distributed to every household in the City quarterly and suggested the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association assemble this information for inclusion in the newsletter.*

*Mayor Davis asked about special programs for senior citizens. Rev. Cione said his congregation offers the SUGAR program, where seniors meet monthly for lunch and discussion. Mayor Davis mentioned the Greenbelt Golden Age Club and suggested some coordinated efforts with SUGAR could be arranged.*

*Rev. Troyer and Rev. Hamlin expressed concern regarding the increasing numbers of homeless individuals in the area and reported that the average homeless individual is 9 years of age. Rev. Troyer discussed her work with the homeless and those living on the street. She noted the expenses associated with housing individuals in local hotels and stressed the urgent need for an adequate*

*facility to provide shelter and services to these individuals. Mayor Davis asked what steps the County was taking to address this issue. Rev. Troyer said the County has been talking about the issue, but there did not appear to be any action being taken on their part to address the problem. Mr. Roberts mentioned space may be available at the old Greenbelt Middle School. Mr. Herling reported the issue of homelessness in the County is being discussed by the Four Cities Homelessness Task Force, as well as Envision Prince George's.*

*Ms. Allchin and Rev. Hamlin said they have found that communications is an issue with Hispanic families who often do not know about social service programs available. They noted the need to provide information on services available in a Spanish version as well as English. Mayor Davis said they would share this concern at their upcoming work session with Franklin Park.*

*Ms. Allchin stressed the need to make youths ages 10 to 15 years aware of serving their community and asked about service opportunities available for them. Mr. McLaughlin said there were volunteer opportunities available for youth in the Recreation camps programs, CARES programs, as well as community cleanup events organized by the Public Works Department. Mayor Davis also noted the service opportunities available at Greenbelt National Park. There was discussion regarding the Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) volunteer program and the complications associated with youth service in this program.*

*Mayor Davis thanked everyone for attending.*

#### *Informational Items*

*Mayor Davis reported the Council of Government's (COG) Board of Directors had approved their budget and work program for the upcoming year. She also said the name for the COG Metropolitan Development Committee had been officially changed to the Region Forward Implementation Coalition.*

*Several other informational items were discussed.*

*The meeting ended at 9:35 p.m.*

*Respectfully Submitted*

*Cindy Murray  
City Clerk*