

**Full Atlanta City Council Meeting
City Hall – Council Chambers
Monday, December 2nd, 2013**

Chair: President Ceasar Mitchell

Topic: Community Benefits Plan

Transcribed by: Mackenzie Madden, Westside Communities Alliance

**Denotes author's note*

Felicia Moore: I attended the last few meetings and this should be the beginning of the process, not the end. Bond and Young who live in the area, are in support of this. I hope that this is the beginning of the process and the committee group will continue to meet. I don't see in this, the process of how it moves to the next stage of funding nor do I see a timeline of how it will be done. This has got to be the beginning, not the end. I hope Bond and Young will place additional things in here to move forward, especially once money will become available for people to apply. This has to move beyond where we are to make progress. I am not concerned with what is not in the plan, I'm more concerned with having a timeline, etc.

Ivory Young: This framework is years in the making. The angst you're hearing is justified by the community's history – recent history. Since 1989, Invest Atlanta administered \$103 million in English Avenue and Vine City. (See spreadsheet on Invest Atlanta's website) The spreadsheet is rich in history. CDCs were charged with rehabbing after the 2002 flood. 38% of that \$103 million was spent on community based contracts. The City seeks the neighborhood out to be part of the revitalization. Development of the neighborhood is a rollercoaster no matter who you are, but there have always been good intentions to deliver. We haven't deterred anyone from coming to the table because of their track records. The whole community has said "this is what we want done." Advisory boards for the TADs will ensure that RFPs match the projects listed here.

*At all previous meetings, public comment records will show that in fact, community members have spoken out time and time again against this document.

Ivory Young goes on a tangent about Johnny's pizza bistro and Sister Precious' leasable office space, despite going over allotted talking time.

Ivory Young: \$200 million in Blank money has been spent in Vine City, not because he has to, but because he is a committed partner and remains committed. Do I need to speak again about the \$2.5 million health complex that was built? There were no big ceremonies, but you can go there if you don't have health insurance. We are making more investments in people. Not buildings. I hope you allow it to move forwards. We will continue to engage the public, there are responsible people at the helm of this.

Michael Bond: Hats off to those who participated in meetings, particularly the community folks who stayed late at night to work, despite rising tempers and divergent opinions.

Reminisces about Lightning (neighborhood that was razed to make way for GWCC) and all the fires that took place there.

Michael Bond: The Community Benefits and community works together when people stop arguing semantics and actually work towards healing. Bowden and Prather did not stand for people who got money and did not spend it properly in the community. I lived in Vine City since I was 4. I've seen it change in a great way. It's at its worst right now. I know we've disagreed during this process. The City has put in millions trying to change the community. We won't walk away from that investment. We want to get down to making things happen. This resolution is the beginning. Through this process, we have matured as a neighborhood. The community represented themselves and did a damn good job. This is their work. We all have to put our shoulder to the wheel and work. We will continue to cuss behind closed doors but kiss and shake hands when we actually meet because that's what Bowden and Prather did. This plan is by no means perfect, and neither are we.

Cleta Winslow: Castleberry is part of this plan as well. There were a lot of heated moments but nobody left the table. Mr. Perry, from Common Cause, gave us a compliment saying that this is more of an open process. While we didn't all agree, everyone stayed. That spoke a lot as to how far we've come as a city and in these neighborhoods. To get the money released, we need to pass this. So thank you to Invest Atlanta, the Council, the Mayor's Office, and citizens. The committee vote was 9 to 3 and some of the community member voted for it.

*She did not mention that because this vote occurred outside of a regularly scheduled meeting, that many community representatives were not in the room and instead more City representatives were.

Joyce Shepherd: The blue binders in front of you have all the details of the CBP.

CT Martin: What about the jobs resolution?

Shepherd: The Mayor's Office keeps making changes to the resolution's language about jobs.

Martin: Why can't we talk about the two things together? Considering high unemployment, it seems like jobs are important. What do people get?

Shepherd: They get a framework for moving forward. The plan (binder) has exhibits as project recommendations.

Martin: This is not a plan.

Yolanda Adams: Is this attached as legislation?

Shepherd: Do you mean, if people pulled this up online, would they see all of this available to them? We need to make sure it is accessible on the website by tomorrow.

Adams: When we vote, are we approving the attachments?

Winslow: The signed legislation is not available.

Shepherd: We can put a condition in that everything in the binder is adopted into the plan. All soft pieces are available on Invest Atlanta's website.

Motion to Adopt: Passes with 14 yays, 0 nays.

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