

Community Development News & Views



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Council Adopts Dr. MLK/VSS Revitalization Plan!

On November 20, 2006 the City Council unanimously voted to adopt the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. & Veronica S. Shoemaker Blvds Revitalization Plan and Timeline as recommended by the Planning Board at its regular meeting on October 11, 2006! Several residents of the Dunbar community and two consultants who assisted Dover Kohl in the planning process attended the council meeting. City Staff will team up with Dr. Lee Duffus, the Dunbar community, public officials, business owners, and community leaders in the new year to jumpstart the Implementation process.

The creation of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Veronica S. Shoemaker Boulevards Revitalization Plan began a little over a year ago when Dover Kohl, a Town Planning firm located in Coral Gables, FL was selected by City Council to work with the Dunbar community. The following events have taken place over the last year:

- 11-28-05 Community Kick-off presentation
- 12-10-05 Community Charette
- 12-11-05 thru 12-15-05 Community open design studio & technical meetings with design team
- 12-15-05 "Work-in-Progress" presentation to City Council
- 2-23-06 Second Hands-on Design Session
- 7-10-06 Final Presentation to City Council
- 10-11-06 Presentation to Planning Board With Recommendation to Adopt
- 11-20-06 Presentation to City Council With Unanimous Vote to Adopt

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Veronica S. Shoemaker Revitalization Plan consists of six redevelopment ideas for the corridor. The community envisions complete, walk-able, people-first neighborhoods; buildings facing streets; mixed-income, mixed-use, and mixed-design; preservation and restoration of existing community resources and development of new facilities to host cultural events. The residents would also like to



expand the number and variety of local businesses; and require new commercial and residential properties to follow a strict design code. All of these ideas were expressed throughout the Plan and are in the Implementation Timeline. Staff created the Implementation Timeline using the nineteen action steps recommended by Dover Kohl to guide the community, public officials, and other stakeholders into the Implementation process.



A number of business owners have already visited the Community Development Department to inquire about the MLK and VSS corridors. With the excitement of the community, business owners, City Council, and City Staff; a new look is inevitable. To request a copy of the Plan, stop by the Community Development Department at 1825 Hendry St or contact Keisha Walker at 239-461-4431 or by email at kwalker@cityftmyers.com. The cost is \$9.54.



Inside This Issue:

Job Openings	2
Accomplishments	2
Philanthropy	3
New Staff	3
More Choices	3
Staff Birthdays	3
Officer Hanley	3
Staff Spotlight	4