

CITY OF BRADENTON

**CENTRAL COMMUNITY
REDEVELOPMENT
AGENCY**

**RESULTS OF PUBLIC
WORKSHOPS**

September 6, 2001



City of Bradenton

Central Community Redevelopment Agency

Results of Public Workshops

September 6, 2001

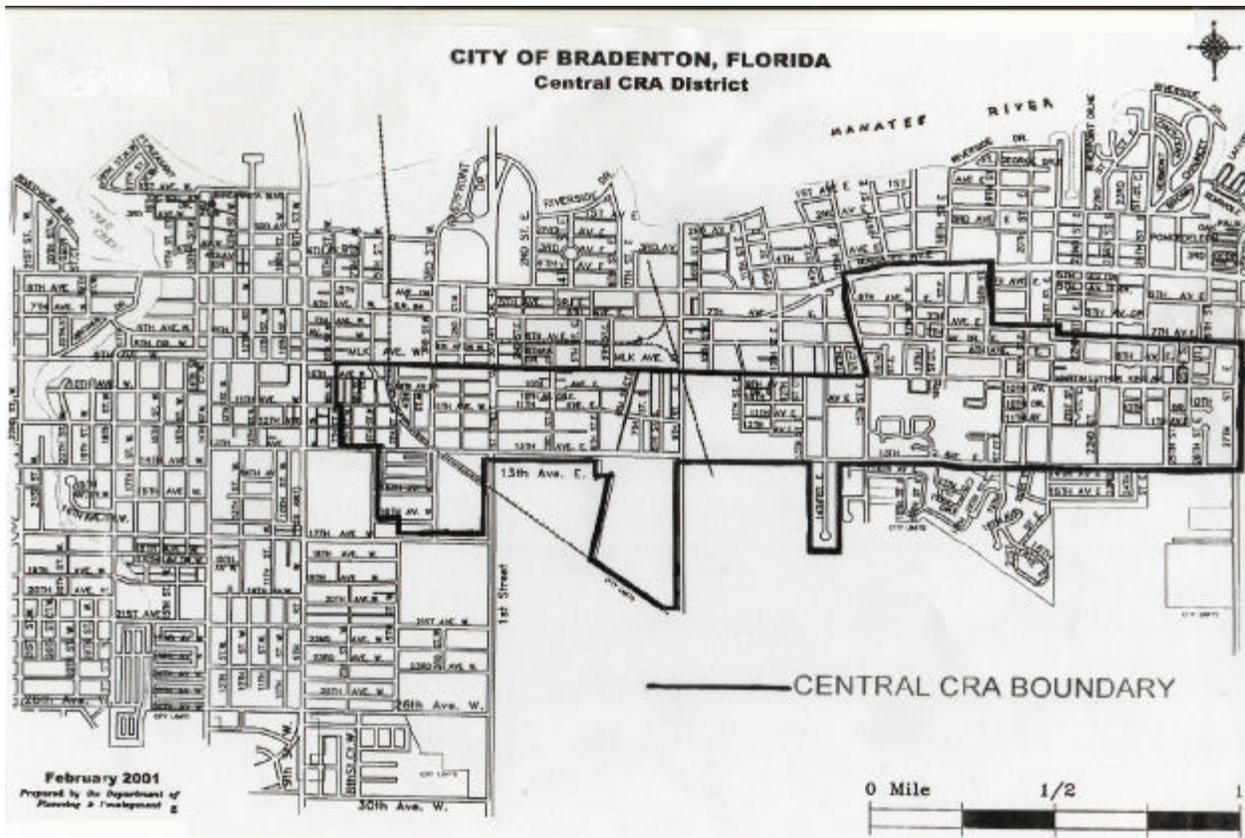


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I. PUBLIC INPUT: Issues and Concerns

During the course of the first two of three public workshop, five common theme areas were identified: Community Facilities, Economic Development, Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, People, and Political. Under each theme area, the participants then identified issues and concerns. A subsequent review identified the core set of issues and concerns common throughout the discussion. Appendices A, B, and C contain a complete list of the identified public issues and concerns. *(Note: For purposes of this report, the terms “community” and “neighborhood” refer to the area within the identified boundaries of the CCRA.)*

A. Issues

- **Landscaping and Community Appearance:** The appearance of the community would be improved through additional landscaping, such as trees and shrubs. Efforts should also be taken to strengthen code enforcement with regards to the upkeep of landlord/rental properties within the community. Taken together, these efforts would increase community pride and enhance the value of existing properties thus serving as a catalyst for new development.
- **MLK Jr. Avenue as “community main street”:** It is recognized by all participants that Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue (MLK) serves as the cornerstone of the historic minority business district. It is also acknowledged that MLK is divided between the Central Community Redevelopment Area (CCRA) and the Downtown Development Area (DDA). Such division potentially threatens to weaken the overall efforts of what the community wants to happen. The CCRA and DDA need to ensure that maximum efforts are taken to guarantee that both sides of MLK receive the financial benefits of being within redevelopment areas.
- **Business Development:** Provide the means for residents of the community to improve the quality of their lives, such as the purchase of affordable housing or expand/enhance opportunities for the establishment of minority businesses to:
 - Create and increase local wealth;
 - Allow people to do business at home; and
 - Establish businesses which attract visitors.

- **Business Attraction:** Business development and economic improvements within the CCRA should be of a type which attract people to stay in the community to play, shop, eat, etc. These should include grocery stores, banking services, dry cleaners, restaurants, etc. It is important to provide opportunities for residents to spend their money in the neighborhood instead of going elsewhere.
- **Community Facilities:** A common item mentioned during all the public workshops was the need to provide and/or improve upon the availability of community facilities. Most often mentioned was the need for a library, community center, and recreation facilities/areas. It was felt that such facilities were necessary to strengthen the feeling of neighborhood.
- **Crime/Community Safety:** Crime was mentioned as being a major concern within the community. Further exacerbating the concerns of crime and pedestrian safety was the poor and/or lack of street lighting and sidewalks found throughout the community. There was a strong sense that being able to feel safe walking around the community would be of immeasurable value to the residents and the ultimate aims of the CCRA.
- **Displacement/Relocation:** Ensure that any displacement/relocation resulting from the implementation of the CCRA plan does not negatively impact resident's financial situation or access to services.

B. Concerns

- **Use of Faith-based Community:** The CCRA Board should recognize and utilize the strength found in the neighborhood's faith-based community (churches).
- **CCRA Board Composition:** The composition of the CCRA Board should be representative of the community. The success of the CCRA will not be achieved if the residents are of the opinion that they "have no say."
- **Avoidance of "Outside" Ownership:** There is general support for the premise of working to promote business growth in the

community. This growth should reflect ownership from within the community.

- **CCRA as an Asset:** The community recognizes that being designated as a Community Redevelopment Area is an asset for the neighborhood.

II. STRATEGIES AND CATALYST PROJECTS

The Central Community Redevelopment Agency is dedicated to strengthening, expanding, and enhancing the identity of the community and quality of life of its residents, as reflected in business, community service, and housing opportunities. As expressed by the residents of the community, the themes of community facilities, economic development, Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, people, and reconciling political issues should guide the strategies which achieve these rehabilitation, conservation, and redevelopment efforts. The following identified Strategies and Catalyst Projects are not presented in any priority order nor are they intended to represent an exhaustive list of possibilities.

A. Strategies

- **MLK Boundary Adjustment:** In recognition of its historical importance to the neighborhood, consideration should be given to adjusting the boundaries of the CCRA and DDA to place both sides of MLK within the CCRA. Should this prove to be not feasible, then maximum effort should be made to coordinate the activities of the CCRA with those of the DDA with particular attention paid to the forming of a partnership for activities along MLK.
- **Jumpstart Funding:** It is anticipated that the CCRA Trust Fund will not receive revenue for 12 to 18 months. The City of Bradenton should provide funds to jumpstart the CCRA effort for planning of the identified catalyst projects.
- **Crime and Community Safety:** Address the concerns of crime and improving a sense of community safety by:
 - More police presence (community policing);
 - Stronger enforcement of city ordinances which deal with drug dealing, prostitution, code enforcement; and
 - Review existing city ordinances which can't, don't, or won't be enforced.
- **Public/Private Partnerships:** The quality of life of the community's residents can be best improved through local efforts. The CCRA should establish public/private partnerships with faith-based organizations. They could serve as satellite

centers for those unable to access the services of a central community center or provide specialized serves for the neighborhood. As an example, a church which provides day care services could be used as an off-hours recreation area. Similarly, a church library could serve as a mini-library for the immediate neighborhood..

- **Limit “Outside” Ownership:** To facilitate a sense of ownership by the community, the CCRA should promote local business development and seek to limit “outside” ownership of new businesses.
- **Establish a Community Center:** The establishment of a community center would provide a central focus for the neighborhood.
- **Establish a Library/Cultural Center:** The establishment of a community/ cultural center would provide a central focus for the neighborhood.
- **Establish a Community Liaison:** Assure communication and community involvement by establishing a formal relationship between the CCRA and a technical/community group. This group could serve as a liaison between the CCRA and the neighborhood.

B. Catalyst Projects

- **Community Policing:** Establish a community policing program within the community. Such a program should, at a minimum, include elements such as:
 - Tying policing into recreational opportunities;
 - Providing more foot patrols;
 - Creating programs to encourage police officers to live in the community;
 - Providing more officers in community for quicker response time;
 - Establishing a neighborhood water program; and
 - Reestablishing police substation in the community.
- **Library/Cultural Center:** Support efforts to Identify a location and begin planning for the construction of library/cultural center.

- **Community Center:** Support efforts to identify the location of and begin planning for the construction of a community center in the area east of 1st Street.
- **13th Avenue Recreation Center:** Develop plans for the rehabilitation and/or expansion of the 13th Avenue Recreation Center.
- **Neighborhood Parks:** Identify the locations for new neighborhood parks and/ or joint-use improvements which could be developed in conjunction with existing faith-based institutions in the area between 1st and 9th Streets East and east of 15th Street.
- **Business Development:** Provide support, such as the establishment of an incubator program, for the fostering and growth of minority businesses.
- **Affordable Housing:** Enhance opportunities for affordable housing through the use of CRA funds.

III. PUBLIC WORKSHOP PROCESSES

- **The first public workshop was held on Tuesday, August 21, 2001 at the Gethsemane Baptist Church. Attended by 31 individuals, the purpose of the workshop was for the attendees to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats they felt most affected their neighborhood. The item receiving the greatest attention was the dividing of the historic Black business district along Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue between the CCRA and the Downtown Development Authority. A listing of the items identified can be found in Appendix A.**
- **The second public workshop was held on Tuesday, August 28, 2001 at the Church of Christ. Prior to the workshop, the items recorded on August 21, 2001 were reviewed with the intent of identifying any central themes. Subsequently, five themes were found: Community Facilities, Economic Development, MLK Avenue, People, and Political. The items identified on August 21 were then listed under the appropriate theme. This information was presented to the workshop attendees who were then asked to offer comments or suggestions. In the resulting discussions, several new items were identified, including the creation of a sixth theme area for Housing. A listing of the material presented and subsequent public input can be found in Appendix B.**
- **The third public workshop was held on Tuesday, September 4, 2001 at the Rogers Memorial Church. During the workshop, participants were asked to review and comment on the initial issues, concerns and strategies. The group was then asked to review, comment, and expand upon the list of potential catalyst projects. These projects are intended to be those which need immediate attention as seen by the residents of the community. A listing of the material presented and subsequent public input can be found in Appendix C.**

A list of the public workshop attendees can be found in Appendix D.

APPENDICES

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**APPENDIX A
Public Workshop
Tuesday, 21 August 2001
Gethsemane Baptist Church
501 9TH Avenue West**

Attendance: 31

Items identified as being of the greatest importance to attendees:

Item	Votes	Factor
Historic black businesses need to be part of CCRA not in the DDA - Split by MLK	33	Weakness
Expand CCRA boundaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put pressure on DDA to provide resources along MLK • since the CCRA is just starting, include MLK now 	12	Weakness
Need improvements to attract people to stay in CCRA to play, shop, eat, etc. - To spend their money in CCRA instead of going elsewhere.	12	Weakness
Community facilities - Need library, community center, recreation facilities/areas	11	Weakness
Crime - CCRA Board/community - willingness to do what needs to be done about it	7	Threats
CCRA future board composition - Need equal representation	6	Threats
Faith-based community (churches)	5	Strengths
Funding by CCRA of faith-based organizations to expand community outreach (capacity building institutions/bricks and mortar)	5	Opportunities

STRENGTHS

Item	Votes
Faith-based community (churches)	5
Residents are not new to business ownership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and experience • Real world knowledge 	3
Minority-owned businesses in Central Community Redevelopment Area (CCRA)	1
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue East (MLK) (9 th Avenue East) 4-laned from 9 th Street East to 9 th Street West	0
Having a Community Redevelopment Area (CRA)	0
Mixed-income community - Help to foster relationships to move ahead	0
Location between I-75 and Downtown	0
Three CRAs in City	0

WEAKNESSES

Item	Votes
Historic black businesses need to be part of CCRA not in the Downtown Development Area (DDA) - Split by MLK	33
Expand CCRA boundaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put pressure on DDA to provide resources along MLK • Since the CCRA is just starting, include MLK now 	12
Need improvements to attract people to stay in CCRA to play, shop, eat, etc. - To spend their money in CCRA instead of going elsewhere.	12
Community facilities - Need library, community center, recreation facilities/ areas	11
Poor/lack of lighting and sidewalks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More police presence • Pedestrian feeling of safety 	3
Need grocery stores, banking services, dry cleaner, restaurants	2
Lack of police presence	1
Children bused out of the community - Need new middle and high school in community	1
Portion of DDA north of MLK not functioning	1
Current CCRA Board composition - "local residents have no say"	0

Item	Votes
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue East (9 th Avenue East) 2-laned from 9 th Street East to 27 th Street West	0
Condition of MLK	0
14 th Street CRA - Without overlap will not be good for other areas	0
Location - Pass through	0
Old city ordinances - Can't/don't/won't enforce	0

OPPORTUNITIES

Item	Votes
Funding by CCRA of faith-based organizations to expand community outreach (capacity building institutions/bricks and mortar)	5
Library - central focus for the neighborhood	4
Increase number of schools in community - Charter schools for elementary, middle, and senior high students	3
Expand boundary of CCRA to include both sides of MLK	2
Tropicana employees provide an opportunity for neighborhood commercial businesses - Keep people doing business at home	2
Community liaison for CCRA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To take message back to neighborhoods • Technical/community advisory group 	1
Local (city) ordinances - Look at drug dealing, prostitution, code enforcement	1
More landscaping - trees, shrubs, etc.	1
Expand/enhance minority-owned businesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and increase local wealth • Assurance by CCRA of limited "outside" ownership • Businesses to attract visitors 	0
Coordinate DDA with CCRA activities	0
DDA to form partnership with CCRA along MLK	0

THREATS

Item	Votes
Crime - CCRA Board/community - willingness to do what needs to be done about it	7
CCRA future board composition - Need equal representation	6
Businesses on MLK <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Divides neighborhood's main street• Threatens what we want to happen	1
Parking overflow onto sidewalks blocking foot traffic	0
Speed increase on MLK Avenue <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep it down• More pedestrian friendly	0

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

1. How did you find out about today's meeting?

Flyer	-	3
Bulletin	-	0
Newspaper	-	1
Word of mouth	-	2
Other	-	6 (CRA meeting (2), MGA TV, letter, and relative (2))

2. Do you live in the Bradenton Central Community Redevelopment Area?

Yes	-	7
No	-	5

3. If yes, how long have you lived in the area?

Less than a year	-	0
1-2 years	-	0
2-4 years	-	0
5-10 years	-	0
10 years or more	-	7

4. Do you own or rent your place of residence?

Own	-	11
Rent	-	0

5. Do you work in the area?

Yes	-	5
No	-	7

6. Are you a business owner in the area?

Yes	-	2
No	-	6

7. If you are a business owner, what type of business is it?

Store	-	0
Restaurant	-	0
Office	-	0
Other	-	3

8. What would you like to see more of in your community?

- Restaurants, shoe repair, bank, chain grocery store, Kinkos, Starbucks
- Minority-owned business
- People sitting out side drinking, loud talking; cars parked over the sidewalks; lots needing to be mowed; more crime lights

- Lighting, sidewalks, more code enforcement, more nice homes; large community building
- Top official visibility (2)
- New business for minorities; park and recreation; library; theater; street lighting
- More economic development opportunities - minority businesses (restaurants, grocery stores, bank); improve infrastructure - streets, sidewalks, lighting; more schools in CCRA area to decrease the busing of minority students out of their neighborhood; more dollars (tax) being put towards improvements
- Communication center and more businesses and the elimination and improvement [of] properties; post office is desperately needed; expansion of out-reach programs

9. What would you like to see less of in your community?

- Apathy, sub-standard housing, blight, litter, broken windows, junk cars, stray dogs
- Crime, blight, and abandonment
- Crime, crime, criime
- Crime
- Crime, drugs (2)
- Crime; open drug sales
- Less crime; less people on the CCRA Board who have never lived, worked, or visited the CCRA area
- A reduction in criminal activities

COMMENTS

- Call MGA TV or METV and have workshop broadcasted on local cable
- 13th Avenue Youth Center is very important and integral part of our community. It serves the community in providing services for youth. The building should be replaced and updated with technological services as well as educational and recreation resources.

APPENDIX B
Public Workshop
Tuesday, August 28, 2001
Church of Christ
202 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue East

Attendance: 23

Results of scoring exercise:

Item	Theme	Votes
Improve the appearance of the community through additional landscaping - trees, shrubs, etc.	CF	6
Since the CCRA is just starting, include the historic black businesses found along MLK within its boundaries. To this end, adjust the boundaries between the CCRA and Downtown Development Area (DDA) to place both sides of MLK within the CCRA.	MLK	6
Recognize and utilize the strength found in the neighborhood's faith-based community (churches)	P	4
Expand/enhance minority-owned businesses in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and increase local wealth; • Allow people to do business at home; and • Establish businesses which attract visitors. 	ED	3
Work to promote business growth from within the community. At the same time, seek assurance from the CCRA to limit the amount of "outside" ownership of new businesses.	ED	3
Recognized need for grocery stores, banking services, dry cleaner, restaurants, etc. in community.	ED	3
Strengthen code with regards to upkeep of landlord/rental properties	POL	3
Have City provide funds to jumpstart CCRA effort.	POL	3
Crime was mentioned as being a major concern within the community. To address this concern, the following methods were mentioned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More police presence; • Strong enforcement of local (city) ordinances which deal with drug dealing, prostitution, code enforcement; and • Review of existing city ordinances which can't, don't, or won't be enforced. 	POL	3
Having a Community Redevelopment Area is an asset for the neighborhood	POL	3
Establishment of a library would provide a central focus for the neighborhood	P	3

Item	Theme	Votes
Community facilities, such as a library, community center, and recreation facilities/areas should be improved in order to enhance the feeling of a neighborhood.	CF	2
Improvements made within the CCRA should be of a type which attract people to stay in community to play, shop, eat, etc.; to spend their money in their neighborhood instead of going elsewhere.	CF	2
The concerns with crime and pedestrian safety are exacerbated by poor and/or lack of lighting and sidewalks.	CF	2
Establish technical/community group to serve as a liaison between the CCRA and the neighborhood	POL	2
Have CCRA Board investigate the possible use of the \$150,000 set aside by Tropicana as initial startup funds. Ensure involvement of residents of affected neighborhood.	POL	2
Add Housing as sixth theme area	PE	2
Due to their common boundary, the DDA should coordinate its activities with the CCRA with particular attention paid to the forming of a partnership for activities along MLK.	MLK	2
Acknowledge that the division of the businesses along MLK between the DDA and CCRA has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divided neighborhood's main street ; and • Threatens what the community wants to happen. 	MLK	1
The portion of the DDA north of MLK is not functioning as well as other areas within the DDA	MLK	1
Want to feel safe walking around the community	P	1
The busing of children out of the neighborhood weakens the opportunity to develop a feeling of community	P	1

CF = Community Facility **ED** = Economic Development
MLK = Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue **P** = People
POL = Political

**MAJOR THEME AREAS IDENTIFIED
FOLLOWING 21 AUGUST 2001 PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- Improvements made within the CCRA should be of a type which attract people to stay in community to play, shop, eat, etc.; to spend their money in their neighborhood instead of going elsewhere.
- Community facilities, such as a library, community center, and recreation facilities/areas should be improved in order to enhance the feeling of a neighborhood.
- The concerns with crime and pedestrian safety are exacerbated by poor and/or lack of lighting and sidewalks.
- The CCRA should provide assistance faith-based organizations in order to allow them to expand community outreach through capacity building institutions (i.e., bricks and mortar).
- Enhance the feeling of community by increasing the number of schools in community either by:
 - Establishing charter schools; or
 - Constructing a new middle an/or high school.
- Improve the appearance of the community through additional landscaping - trees, shrubs, etc.
- The lack of adequate parking at existing commercial establishments results in parking overflow occurring on sidewalks. This results in the blocking foot traffic and minimizes pedestrian safety.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Tropicana employees provide an opportunity to develop neighborhood commercial businesses.
- Expand/enhance minority-owned businesses in order to:
 - Create and increase local wealth;
 - Allow people to do business at home; and
 - Establish businesses which attract visitors.
- Work to promote business growth from within the community. At the same time, seek assurance from the CCRA to limit the amount of “outside” ownership of new businesses.
- Recognized need for grocery stores, banking services, dry cleaner, restaurants, etc. in community.
- The implementation of programs/projects needs to acknowledge that the location of the CCRA between I-75 and Downtown serves as both an asset and liability.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AVENUE (9TH AVENUE)

- Since the CCRA is just starting, include the historic black businesses found along MLK within its boundaries. To this end, adjust the boundaries between the CCRA and Downtown Development Area (DDA) to place both sides of MLK within the CCRA.
- Acknowledge that the division of the businesses along MLK between the DDA and CCRA has:
 - Divided neighborhood's main street ; and
 - Threatens what the community wants to happen.
- Due to their common boundary, the DDA should coordinate its activities with the CCRA with particular attention paid to the forming of a partnership for activities along MLK.
- The portion of the DDA north of MLK is not functioning as well as other areas within the DDA.
- Recognized that the 4-lane portion of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue East (MLK) (9th Avenue East) from 9th Street East to 9th Street West is good for the community while that 2-lane portion east to 27th Street East is bad.
- With improvements to MLK, speed has increased. Needs to be kept down in order to create a more pedestrian friendly environment.

PEOPLE

- Recognize and utilize the strength found in the neighborhood's faith-based community (churches).
- Residents are not new to business ownership. Through their general and real world knowledge and experience, they are a valuable asset to the CCRA and can help grow businesses.
- The need to address crime was recognized as an issue in fulfilling the aim of the CCRA. Both the CCRA Board and community must display a willingness to do what needs to be done about it.
- Want to feel safe walking around the community.
- Establishment of a library would provide a central focus for the neighborhood.
- The busing of children out of the neighborhood weakens the opportunity to develop a feeling of community.
- Being a mixed-income community helps to foster relationships to move ahead.

POLITICAL ISSUES

- Crime was mentioned as being a major concern within the community. To address this concern, the following methods were mentioned:
 - More police presence;

- **Strong enforcement of local (city) ordinances which deal with drug dealing, prostitution, code enforcement; and**
- **Review of existing city ordinances which can't, don't, or won't be enforced.**

- **Concern expressed with the composition of the current CCRA Board, "local residents have no say." The future composition of the CCRA Board should address the concern for equal representation.**

- **Establish technical/community advisory group to serve as a liaison between the CCRA and the neighborhoods.**

- **Having a Community Redevelopment Area is an asset for the neighborhood.**

**ITEMS ADDED TO THEME AREAS
DURING 28 AUGUST 2001
PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- Landscaping - upkeep of public right-of-way (overgrown, trash)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Avoid “Big Box” competition with local businesses
- Training for new small business owners [train local trainers]
- Build opportunities for home occupations - follow example of Village of the Arts
- 13th Avenue improvements plans without public involvement - avoid repeating

MLK AVENUE

- Don't lose opportunity for establishing tax base
- Prime areas for commercial development can be found in the 200 block between 2nd and 3rd Streets East and across from St. Stephen's Church

PEOPLE

- Need facilities where people can enjoy themselves (parks, walking)
- Add Housing as sixth theme area

POLITICAL ISSUES

- Strengthen code with regards to upkeep of landlord/rental properties
- Have CCRA Board investigate the possible use of the \$150,000 set aside by Tropicana as initial startup funds. Ensure involvement of residents of affected neighborhood.
- Have City provide funds to jumpstart CCRA effort.
- Need greater interfacing between the CCRA and DDA

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

1. Did you attend the meeting on Tuesday, August 21, 2001?

Yes	-	8
No	-	8

2. How did you find out about today's meeting?

Flyer	-	2	
Bulletin	-		0
Newspaper	-	3	
Word of mouth	-		5
Other	-	6	

3. Do you live in the Bradenton Central Community Redevelopment Area?

Yes	-	13
No	-	3

4. If yes, how long have you lived in the area?

Less than a year	-	1
1-2 years	-	1
2-4 years	-	1
5-10 years	-	0
10 years or more	-	12

4. Do you own or rent your place of residence?

Own	-	13
Rent	-	3

6. Do you work in the area?

Yes	-	12
No	-	4

7. Are you a business owner in the area?

Yes	-	2
No	-	13

APPENDIX C
Public Workshop
Tuesday, September 4, 2001
Rogers Memorial Church
1100 15th Street East

Attendance: 30

INITIAL MATERIAL PRESENTED
FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT: Issues and Concerns

During the course of the first two of three public workshop, five common theme areas were identified: Community Facilities, Economic Development, Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, People, and Political. Under each theme area, the participants then identified issues and concerns. A subsequent review identified the core set of issues and concerns common throughout the discussion.

A. Issues

1. **Landscaping and Community Appearance:** The appearance of the community would be improved through additional landscaping, such as trees and shrubs. Efforts should also be taken to strengthen code enforcement with regards to the upkeep of landlord/rental properties within the community. Taken together, these efforts would increase community pride and enhance the value of existing properties thus serving as a catalyst for new development.
2. **MLK Jr. Avenue as “community main street”:** It is recognized by all participants that Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue (MLK) serves as the cornerstone of the historic minority business district. It is also acknowledged that MLK is divided between the Central Community Redevelopment Area and the Downtown Development Area. Such division potentially threatens to weaken the overall efforts of what the community wants to happen. Both agencies need to ensure that maximum efforts are taken to guarantee that both sides of MLK receive the financial benefits of being within redevelopment areas.
3. **Business Development:** Provide the means for residents of the community to improve the quality of their lives, such as the purchase of affordable housing or expand/enhance opportunities for the establishment of minority businesses to:
 - Create and increase local wealth;
 - Allow people to do business at home; and
 - Establish businesses which attract visitors.
4. **Business Attraction:** Business development, economic improvements within the CCRA should be of a type which attract people to stay in the community to play, shop, eat, etc. These should include grocery stores, banking services, dry cleaners, restaurants, etc. It is important to provide opportunities for residents to spend their money in the neighborhood instead of going elsewhere.

5. **Community Facilities:** A common item mentioned during all the public workshops was the need to provide and/or improve upon the availability of community facilities. Most often mentioned was the need for a library, community center, and recreation facilities/areas. It was felt that such facilities were necessary to strengthen the feeling of neighborhood.
6. **Crime/Community Safety:** Crime was mentioned as being a major concern within the community. Further exacerbating the concerns of crime and pedestrian safety was the poor and/or lack of lighting and sidewalks found throughout the community. There was a strong sense that being able to feel safe walking around the community would be of immeasurable value to the residents and the ultimate aims of the CCRA.

B. Concerns

1. **Use of Faith-based Community:** The CCRA Board should recognize and utilize the strength found in the neighborhood's faith-based community (churches).
2. **CCRA Board Composition:** The composition of the CCRA Board should be representative of the community. The success of the CCRA will not be achieved if the residents are of the opinion that they "have no say."
3. **Avoidance of "Outside" Ownership:** There is general support for the premise of working to promote business growth in the community. This growth should reflect ownership from within the community.
4. **CCRA as an Asset:** The community recognizes that being designated as a Community Redevelopment Area is an asset for the neighborhood.

STRATEGIES AND CATALYST PROJECTS

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A. Strategies

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3. **Crime and Community Safety:** Address the concerns of crime and improving a sense of community safety by:
 - More police presence (community policing);

- Stronger enforcement of city ordinances which deal with drug dealing, prostitution, code enforcement; and
 - Review existing city ordinances which can't, don't, or won't be enforced.
4. **Public/Private Partnerships:** The quality of life of the community's residents can be best improved through local efforts. The CCRA should establish public/private partnerships with faith-based organizations. They could serve as satellite centers for those unable to access the services of a central community center or provide specialized serves for the neighborhood. As an example, a church which provides day care services could be used as an off-hours recreation area. Similarly, a church library could serve as a mini-library for the immediate neighborhood..
 5. **Limit "Outside" Ownership:** To facilitate a sense of ownership by the community, the CCRA should promote local business development and seek to limit "outside" ownership of new businesses.
 6. **Establish a Community Center/Library:** The establishment of a community center/library would provide a central focus for the neighborhood.
 7. **Establish a Community Liaison:** Assure communication and community involvement by establishing a formal relationship between the CCRA and a technical/community group. This group could serve as a liaison between the CCRA and the neighborhood.

B. Catalyst Projects

1. **Community Policing:** Establish a community policing program within the community.

Discussion: What specific elements should such a program focus on?
2. **Multi-Purpose Community Center/Library and Recreation Center:** Identify a location and begin planning for the construction of a multi-purpose community center/library and recreation center.

Discussion: Would concern be addressed by the rehabilitation and/or expansion of the 13th Avenue Recreation Center?
3. **Neighborhood Park:** Identify the locations for new neighborhood parks and/ or joint-use improvements which could be developed in conjunction with existing faith-based locations.

Discussion: It appears that the area between 1st and 9th Streets East is underserved - yes or no?

ADDITIONAL ITEMS IDENTIFIED DURING PUBLIC WORKSHOP

- **Need community center and park east of 1st Street.**
- **Library/cultural center needs to be separate from community center.**
- **Improve/expand 13th Avenue Recreation Center.**
- **Lack of neighborhood parks between 1st and 9th Streets and east of 15th Street.**
- **Tie policing into recreation opportunities.**
- **Community means CRA area.**
- **Community policing:**
 - **More foot patrols;**
 - **Create programs to encourage police officers to live in the community;**
 - **Recruit more minority officers;**
 - **Have more officers for quicker response time;**
 - **Establish neighborhood watch program; and**
 - **Reestablish police substation.**
- **Develop affordable housing with CRA funds.**
- **Support minority businesses**
- **Use bullets instead of numbers to avoid appearance of ranking.**
- **Establish incubator program to support new businesses.**
- **Ensure that any displacement/relocation does not negatively impact resident's financial situation or access to services.**

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

1. Did you attend the meeting on Tuesday, August 21, 2001?

Yes - 1
No - 11

2. Did you attend the meeting on Tuesday, August 28, 2001?

Yes - 1
No - 11

3. How did you find out about today's meeting?

Flyer - 0
Bulletin - 0
Newspaper - 0
Word of mouth - 7
Other - 4 (church announcement)

4. Do you live in the Bradenton Central Community Redevelopment Area?

Yes - 6
No - 6

5. If yes, how long have you lived in the area?

Less than a year - 1
1-2 years - 0
2-4 years - 0
5-10 years - 0
10 years or more - 8

6. Do you own or rent your place of residence?

Own - 9
Rent - 2

7. Do you work in the area?

Yes - 5
No - 6

8. Are you a business owner in the area?

Yes - 1
No - 10

Additional Comments:

- **Recently moved out of the CRA when Tropicana expanded. Definitely have a vested interested and plan on moving back.**
- **It is important to have services such as banks and etc. in this area.**
- **Use of a “BIN” for unrelated issues and more of a visioning focus than “what you want.”**

APPENDIX D
Public Workshop Attendees

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