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Blueprint for Prosperity

Raising per capita income in Jacksonville



Ask the Mayor

by Mayor
John
Peyton

Hosting Super Bowl XXXIX taught city leaders, including me, many valuable lessons. Giving the world its first taste of Jacksonville meant a lot of work for city government, including coordinating with over 50 law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety of our residents and visitors, working to meet the National Football League's (NFL's) strict requirements, and collaborating with local businesses and individuals to enhance the city's natural beauty.

Perhaps the greatest lesson we all learned from the Super Bowl, however, was what can be achieved when our entire community rallies together. All sectors of the city - individuals, businesses, government - worked together to prepare for the big game, and the result was one of the best Super Bowls in history. We showed the world what

First Coast residents have always known - that Jacksonville is the best place in America to work, live and raise a family.

To help harness the energy created by our Super Bowl experience and keep our community moving forward, the City of Jacksonville, the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce and WorkSource are partnering to create the "Blueprint for Prosperity," a plan to raise per capita income in Jacksonville. This sweeping initiative will require widespread community involvement just like the Super Bowl, but its goal is one that everyone in Jacksonville can support. Raising per capita income will enhance our quality of life, ensure regional prosperity and a strong economy, and create a bright future for the First Coast.

While Jacksonville is heading in the right direction, our city is still facing the same challenges as the rest of the nation with regard to global competition, changing demographics and the need for a workforce that can adapt

to a technology-based economy. Compounding the problem, our city's per capita income trend is dramatically deviating from the rest of the nation.

Since 1984, we have consistently been below the national average. At the same time, other cities in our region have experienced tremendous growth in personal incomes. For example, the average per capita income in Charlotte, N.C. is 25 percent above Jacksonville's, and Atlanta's beats our city by a whopping 65 percent.

To locally address globalization, shifting demographics and advancing technologies, and to get Jacksonville's per capita income in step with the national average, we must work together and have a plan to surmount the barriers to success. The "Blueprint for Prosperity" will be that plan, but it requires the participation of the entire community. The first stage of the planning process depends on the input from 10,000 volunteers from

Blueprint... page 5

The Justice Coalition began in 1995 because one man's priorities were changed. Ted Hires was the average businessman working 60 to 80 hours a week and looking out for himself until that day when he and his staff were held at gunpoint and robbed. Being a victim of crime, Ted found the criminal justice system worked harder for the criminal than the victim. As a result of Ted's experience, he formed a (501C3) non-profit organization, the Justice Coalition, and is making an effort to change the Fourth Judicial court system for the better.

Since 1995, the Justice Coalition has been fighting crime every step of the way. Fugitives captured are through a partnership with local media and law enforcement agencies.

The Justice Coalition's

Victims' Advocate

A free newspaper supporting victims' rights published monthly by The Justice Coalition. The opinions of contributing writers are not necessarily those of the Justice Coalition's Victims' Advocate or the Justice Coalition. The Justice Coalition's Victims' Advocate welcomes both editorial and photographic submission, but they cannot be returned. Please allow six weeks for a response to submitted works. Calendar information is welcome but must be submitted one month in advance of the event.

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All correspondence to the Justice Coalition's Victims' Advocate should be sent to:
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THE JUSTICE COALITION'S OBJECTIVES

- To be available for innocent victims of violent crime
- To educate the general public on criminal justice issues
- To be pro-active in the fight against crime

Advertising Deadline

The deadline for advertising copy for the **July 2005 Edition** of the JUSTICE COALITION'S VICTIMS' ADVOCATE is **June 10, 2005.**

Wayne M. Ellis

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