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In this issue we present some current business licensing, code enforcement and city revenue articles

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NBRRO 2015 CONFERENCE IN SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

This July, 2015, the NBRRO Annual Conference was an overwhelming success with many members attending the beautiful City of Savannah Georgia.

The introduction to the Conference and welcome to the City was graciously introduced by Mayor Pro-tem Van Johnson.

Founder—Paul Morris provided his detailed, up-to date— Licensing and Taxation Case Law review, followed by the keynote speaker Glenda Doles—who encouraged attendees to “Invest In Yourself”.

Next we enjoyed a great session by Jeffrey Morris From George/Scott County who spoke on ‘Rolling Up Licensing’, followed by “Facilitating Focus presented by Noah Moerbeek.

The “Helping Your Attorney Defend Your Assessment” session was provided by Andrew

McRoberts, Esq.

After distribution of awards, Pam Davis of Richland County offered a session of “Discovering/Evaluating Best Practices “.

Our Regulation update was given by Brian Arnold, Esq. of Arnold & Wadsworth, Utah.

THE CITY OF SAVANNAH

Our members enjoyed the charm and unique setting the wonderful City offers. Many chose to sample the cuisine , shop at the many unique establishments on Bay and River Street, and enjoy the Southern hospitality Savannah is well known for. The Venue Hotel offered breathtaking views of the Savannah River with its many passing ships, and a great view of River Street. We hope to see all long-time and new members in Denver, CO next July!



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BECOMING A MEMBER

NBRRO membership enables you access to information regarding business licensing, revenue raising, regulating and code enforcement at the local level of government.

Individual Membership is \$60 per year and entitles you to a discounted annual conference registration and NBRRO newsletters. Entity level membership offers additional benefits. NBBLO also sponsors several national certifications.

For more information go to www.nbrro.org. There are links for membership, certification, and the annual conference.

NEWARK REDUCES BUSINESS APPLICATION PROCESSING TIME

By devine • September 9, 2015 • njtoday.net

The Newark Community Economic Development Corporation (Newark CEDC) and the City of Newark announced today a significantly improved business licensing process.

By moving to an on-line platform, Newark CEDC has reduced the business-licensing application processing time by an astounding 90%.

Portuguese-native, pastry chef and Newark bakery owner, Antonio DaSilva was the first business owner to participate in the online business licensing application process.

By working with Newark CEDC, DaSilva was able ... to reduce the amount of red tape and headaches traditionally associated with securing a municipal business license from Newark

DaSilva plans to hire at least four, previously unemployed, part-time workers to assist in running the bakery. His current venture, the Cinnamon Sugar Bakery, will occupy 750 square feet of retail space at 191 Market Street in Newark's downtown district.

"Mayor Baraka directed us to ensure that this new online portal streamlined the process of doing business in the City of Newark," said Otis Rolley III, president and CEO of the Newark CEDC.

"By reducing paperwork and its associated headaches, we are allowing business owners to focus on establishing and setting up their companies," said Rolley. "We will continue to

work with the Newark Office of Information Technology to look for innovative and creative ways to make the process of conducting business in Newark as smooth and seamless as possible.

Under the old paper-licensing process, it took an average of 12 months for an eatery/restaurant to be notified of approval regarding their municipal business license from Newark City Hall.

With the new "Online Business License Application" process, still in a beta-test stage, the City of Newark has reduced the processing and approval time to 30 days.

The Newark Community Economic Development Corporation (Newark CEDC), founded in 2007 and reorganized in 2014, is the primary economic development catalyst for Newark – New Jersey's largest city.

It is organized to retain, attract and grow businesses, enhance small and minority business capacity, and spur real estate development throughout the city's 20 diverse neighborhoods.

As a business development company whose sole client is the City of Newark, Newark CEDC collaborates with the Newark Department of Economic & Housing Development to initiate and execute economic development activities that produce and sustain economic growth, generate jobs and create wealth for the citizens of Newark.

HOMELESS CHARITY'S LEADER: 'This isn't the end of us'

By [Keith Morelli](#) | [Tampa Tribune Staff](#)

Published: September 9, 2015



The code-enforcement blow dealt by the city to Homeless Helping Homeless was devastating, but it's not a knock-out punch, said the organization's founder and director Wednesday, as he worked to recover from being tossed out of his headquarters. "We need another facility," said Adolphus Parker (pictured), who founded Homeless Helping Homeless six years ago. JASON BEHNKEN / STAFF

Last week, city code enforcement officials told the organization its buildings were in violation of several codes and it had five days to clear out the homeless men and women from the non-profit's main building, a garage-apartment type of structure, and a rickety plywood open-air shelter. By Wednesday, everything was shuttered. "We need another facility," said Adolphus Parker, who founded [Homeless Helping Homeless](#) six years ago

At its peak, the nonprofit housed more than 80 chronically homeless individuals in a handful of makeshift shelters around Tampa. Now, about 30 beds remain for homeless people, Parker said, though he didn't want to divulge the locations of the shelters for fear the city would step in and shutter them as well.

The city's action, he said, "is putting more homeless people on the street." Many of the volunteers who help are homeless or have been homeless. They solicit donations on street corners

to pay for food, beds and services available through the charity, he said.

"We need another facility and we are reaching out to the community for support," he said.

Earlier this year, Homeless Helping Homeless filed a lawsuit that resulted in the city overturning much of the city's panhandling ban. Parker said he believes the recent raid on his modest building on East Floribaska Avenue was retaliation for that.

"Some things we still offer," he said, "but the main thing was the shelter."

Twenty two beds that had been available for chronically homeless people were removed Tuesday and Wednesday, he said.

This isn't the end of Homeless Helping Homeless, Parker said. He said he hopes to be able to relocate the organization's headquarters into a leased building within a few days.

Parker founded Homeless Helping Homeless in 2009, offering beds and meals to homeless people in multiple locations throughout the city, supplies, showers, hygiene kits and about 3,000 meals each month. The charity's homeless clients fill key staff positions and are most visible around the city holding placards on street corners soliciting money for the charity.

A visit by code enforcement inspectors last week determined the property was in violation of several zoning and code enforcement laws, city officials said

Several months ago, zoning violations shut down the charity's Bargain Center Thrift Store on Florida Avenue, which helped fund the emergency women's shelter and transitional shelter. Parker said that forced him to relocate beds to the Floribaska property.



In December of 1993, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Los Angeles Mayor and City Council created the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) as an independent, Joint Powers Authority. LAHSA's primary role is to coordinate the effective and efficient utilization of Federal and local funding in providing services to homeless people throughout Los Angeles City and County.

LAHSA is the lead agency in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care, which is the regional planning body that coordinates housing and services for homeless families and individuals in Los Angeles County. LAHSA coordinates and manages over \$70 million dollars annually in Federal, State, County and City funds for programs that provide shelter, housing and services to homeless persons in Los Angeles City and County.



Upcoming Events in 2015

Association	Dates	Website
Utah Business Licensing Association-Logan	Sep 16-18	www.utahbusinesslicenseassociation.com/
Constitutional Officers Association of Georgia-Savannah	Oct 5-8	www.coag.info
California Association of Code Enforcement Officers-Anaheim	Oct 6-9	www.caceo.us
California Municipal Revenue & Tax Association-Anaheim	Oct 9-11	www.cmrt.org
SC Business Licensing Officials Association-Hilton Head Island	Oct 13-16	www.masc.sc

JUSTICES RULE AGAINST COLUMBIA ON WATER FEES

2:11 p.m. EDT September 9, 2015 **WLTX 19**

Columbia, SC (WLTX) - The South Carolina Supreme Court says the City of Columbia likely didn't have the right to use money collected from water and sewer user fees for other unrelated city projects.

[The justices issued their opinion this week](#) in a suit that had been brought against the city by a group of residents. A lower court had originally found in favor of the city, but in their opinion, the justices reversed that decision, and sent it back to trial court for further review.

At issue was a long-standing city policy of transferring millions of dollars that it took in from water and sewer services user fees and putting the revenue into the city's General Fund. That money would then go to a variety of economic devel-

opment projects.

But a group of residents sued the city, claiming that money is legally only supposed to go toward costs and expenditures related to the city's water system, and should have been completely separate from the General Fund

In the original case, the city argued that because water customers sign a contract, state law regarding the limited use of the user fees didn't apply to the water services, and the lower court agreed. But the Supreme Court found fault with that reasoning, saying the city created a way around the law that wasn't there, allowing them to "spend water and sewer revenues in any manner and for any purpose the city wishes."

As further support for their claims, the city had

said that since the redirected money would ultimately bring new investment to the city--and therefore new water and sewer revenue--the expense was within the boundaries of the law. But the justices questioned if the economic expenditures were sufficiently related to water and sewer services.

The court also wondered if the city had adequately funded maintenance and upkeep of its system while it was agreeing to this annual transfer of money to other projects. Specifically, the justices brought up when, in 2013, the state and federal government sued the city because of violations of the federal Clean Water Act. The city settled that matter, and at the time agreed to do more to make repairs to its system to prevent further violations.

If you observe any errors in this publication, please let us know via email to: Mod-erator@nbrro.org

The Reporter Proposes Plan to Help Set City on Road to Recovery

By Anna Howard Niagara Falls Reporter SEP 10, 2015

Modified by the editor for general application.

Our nation rebuilt Germany and Japan following the conflagration of WW II so there's certainly no reason why the good people of this city can't put their collective shoulder to the wheel to rebuild a post Urban Renewal, post-Paul Dyster, Niagara Falls. in this spirit, and in light of the fact that mayoral candidates – no matter how well intended – are often in need of guidance, the Reporter has written this column to point the way toward a brighter day for the city. The bullet points below could go a long way toward pulling the community out of the Ditch that the city has been in—Establish a transparent, written, understanding of what the casino revenue can and cannot be used for and a

yearly, and transparent, casino revenue-spending plan.

—Review and solve the mystery of the inexplicable recurring city deficit, a deficit that defiantly repeats in the face of the city's casino cash windfall.

—Fire the engineering consultant, hire a city engineer.

—Immediately establish the true cost to operate and maintain the train station.

—Issue a moratorium on future NFC loans and grants until all past loans and grants have been reviewed thoroughly.

—Roll back top government salaries that were increased by the [prior] administration through initial setting, repeat raises, stipends, and overtime.

—End the practice of allowing, “acting department heads” which runs counter to NYS civil service law.

—Prohibit city employees from holding outside jobs on city time as they are allowed to “adjust” their city work hours to fit the opposing employer.

—Immediately draft a straight forward “ethics law and en-

forcement policy” specifically geared toward elected officials, department heads and all employees handling city contracts, city funds and city purchasing.

—Revisit the trash and recycling contract top to bottom.

—Review [all] projects with a probing eye toward project costs and groundbreaking.

—Close out its defunct commissions and investigate all city lawsuits.

—Address the Comptroller's audit of city finances with special attention to mishandled and unaccounted for millions of dollars as revealed in the audit.

—Initiate a “crime fighting summit” in cooperation with the Police, Sheriff, and FBI with a goal toward developing a believable, supportable crime fighting strategy.

—Shelve the numerous “studies” beginning with the \$100,000 “parking plan study” that would privatize the city's parking for decades to come.

—Show all “consultants” the door...ushering in an era of city government where residents and talented locals take the lead in developing the city's future. Action not plans, results not studies.

—Review the use of legal consultants with an eye toward either ending the city's reliance on such consultants or severely reducing the current city legal staff and relying on legal consultants, the city cannot afford both.

—Review and analyze the city's public safety workforce with regard to overtime costs in relation to staffing levels and efficacy.

—Review and remove trendy, costly, feel-good programs such as the “live here and we'll pay your college loans” or “let's paint empty building facades” and “let's put funny faces on fire hydrants” initiatives.

—Review and reassign the private party programs away from city government, the Community Development Department and any other connection to city government.

—Thoroughly audit all city, and HUD funds.

—Give the city Finance Review Panel unfettered, unchallenged, access to city finance records including the city's debt and re-structured debt programs.

—Form a citizen panel to address the future of city properties.

—Post online a transparent, running and timely report as to what streets, potholes, trees, sidewalks and tree stumps are listed for work, removal or repair.

—Post online city revenue interest accounts with all interest account expenditures.

—Post online the city debt and its structure and “re-structure” of last year.

—Post online the city budget “in real time” as other governments have .

—Post online a five-year paving program.

—Post online a “real time” list of abandoned properties, in rem properties, and structures scheduled for demolition.

—Declare a moratorium on the expansion and opening of new parks and or green space until the city can afford to regularly maintain existing city parks and green space.

—Reach out sincerely to businesses in an attempt to help them do business in the city

—Initiate a complete review of the handling of the city debt and all city finances in cooperation with and under the guidance of the state Comptroller's office. Let the state Comptroller finish the job begun in 2012 and get to the source of the city's finance problems.

Keep your membership in NBRRO current.

Contact: moderator@NBRRO.org for your status

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