

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT

I. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

GOAL 1: IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION. The City shall provide for the continued identification and evaluation of the historic resources.

Objective 1.1: The City shall continue to promote and maintain existing programs that identify and evaluate historic structures, sites, and vistas.

Policy 1.1.1: The City will continue pursuing grant funding to update and expand the original West Palm Beach Historic Sites Survey.

Policy 1.1.2: The City will continue to work with the State Historic Preservation Office to integrate locally-designated resources into the state inventory, also known as the Florida Master Site File. Staff will continue updating records and monitoring the status of listed properties.

Policy 1.1.3: The City will produce a map in its GIS database that identifies all locally designated properties, historic and conservation districts, and National Register properties. This information will be shared between local agencies, including, but not limited to, the West Palm Beach Property Appraiser office, the Realtors Association of the Palm Beaches, the West Palm Beach Housing and Community Development Department, and the Community Redevelopment Agency.

Policy 1.1.4: The City will maintain the adopted criteria set forth in the Historic Preservation Ordinance for the evaluation of historical and archaeological resources that are consistent with the requirements of the Certified Local Government (CLG) program.

Policy 1.1.5: The City will continue to evaluate its historic resources, both archaeological and within the built environment, for eligibility for nomination to the West Palm Beach Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places.

GOAL 2: RECOGNITION AND REGISTRATION. The City shall continue to provide a means of formal recognition of significant historic resources and provide for their appropriate registration at the local, state, or national level.

Objective 2.1: The City will continue to implement a program to formally recognize historic and archaeological resources that are considered significant according to the criteria set forth in the Historic Preservation Ordinance. (Ord. No. 2815-95).

Policy 2.1.1: The City will continue to maintain a local register of historic buildings, structures and sites.

Policy 2.1.2: The City will continue to provide funding for the historic street signage program within its historic districts.

Policy 2.1.3: The City will make available for purchase plaques and/or certificates for display on buildings or premises to recognize and promote their historic or archaeological significance.

Policy 2.1.4: The City will establish a program to officially recognize excellence in historic preservation activities.

Policy 2.1.5: The Historic Preservation Division Staff of the City will promote the designation process for properties eligible for listing on the Local or National Register, and will continue to provide technical assistance to constituents who express interest in designation.

GOAL 3: EDUCATION/PUBLIC AWARENESS. The City shall provide for the public awareness and involvement in the preservation of the City's historic and archaeological resources.

Objective 3.1: The City shall continue to implement educational programs and create publications to promote public awareness about local history, the Historic Preservation Program, and economic incentives available to foster preservation of historic resources.

Policy 3.1.1: The City will continue to provide assistance to neighborhoods to achieve a positive neighborhood identification and a sense of place.

Policy 3.1.2: The City will continue to provide outreach programs or send a representative to public meetings in order to improve government and citizen understanding on issues concerning historic preservation.

Policy 3.1.3: The City will continue to pursue grant funding and/or cooperate with local organizations to develop and maintain brochures, tours, maps and programs illustrating the history of West Palm Beach and the City's Historic Preservation Programs.

Policy 3.1.4: The City will continue to maintain, on an on-going basis, preservation information on the City's website such as technical assistance materials, funding information and information on the City's Historic Preservation Program and regulations.

Policy 3.1.5: The City will work to promote the economic benefits of historic preservation as it relates to property values within locally-designated neighborhoods, heritage tourism, and downtown reactivation through the principles of New Urbanism.

Policy 3.1.6: The City will continue to work with preservation interest groups in addressing problems that have an impact on the City's historic resources.

Policy 3.1.7: The City will continue to prepare and offer to historic districts and the general public workshops focusing on the repair and maintenance of buildings, the sensitive design for additions, alterations, and modifications to historic buildings.

Policy 3.1.8: The City will continue to prepare press releases on historic preservation activities.

Policy 3.1.9: The City will continue to work with local realtors and neighborhood organizations to increase public awareness of the Historic Preservation Board's review process for proposed alterations, demolitions and new construction in historic districts.

Policy 3.1.10: The City will continue to participate actively in the educational programs sponsored by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation.

Policy 3.1.11: The City will continue to hire interns to provide an opportunity for students to participate in the City's Historic Preservation Program through historic research or site surveys. Programs should be instituted where area college and university students could receive credit towards their degree by participating in the Historic Preservation Program.

GOAL 4: COORDINATION. The City shall continue to coordinate and streamline government policies to protect and preserve the City's historic resources.

Objective 4.1: The City shall integrate the review of impacts to historic and archaeological resources into the existing regulatory framework of state and local government agencies.

Policy 4.1.1: The City will continue to work with the Palm Beach School Board to review and assist with their mandate to consult with the State Historic Preservation Office when new construction, remodeling, or renovation projects involve a historical resource. The City will assist the School Board in identifying those buildings and Florida Master Site Files will be submitted.

Policy 4.1.2: The City's Code enforcement staff will continue to be trained to identify and cite historic properties that suffer from decline due to neglect, vacancy and deferred maintenance.

Policy 4.1.3: The City shall continue cooperation between the Building Division and the Planning Division to establish an effective process to indicate all designated properties or surveyed properties that are eligible for designation.

Policy 4.1.4: The City's Historic Preservation Staff will continue to work with the

City's Housing and Community Development Department to assist with environmental reviews that involve historic resources. Historic Preservation Division staff will work to promote historic preservation activities in conjunction with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, and other applicable Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs, in low to moderate income areas.

Policy 4.1.5: The City will continue to participate in and uphold the criteria set forth in the CLG program.

Policy 4.1.6: The Downtown Development Authority, the Downtown Action Committee and the Historic Preservation Division will work together on an on-going basis towards the designation of downtown properties and to explore funding sources for their restoration and rehabilitation.

Policy 4.1.7: The City shall enforce the Zoning and Land Development Regulations for the historic residential districts to protect the existing historic character of the City's residential historic districts. These contextual zoning districts shall ensure that new buildings are compatible with the existing urban fabric in terms of size, scale and mass by providing for regulations that establish for a framework of compatible infill and additions to properties patterned on the existing district's characteristics and the context of the existing buildings.

GOAL 5: ECONOMIC INCENTIVES. The City shall maintain a program for the provision of financial incentives for historic preservation purposes.

Objectives 5.1: The City shall support the programs and incentives provided by the local, state and national preservation organizations.

Policy 5.1.1: The City will continue the implementation of the Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Ordinance and promote its availability to the public.

Policy 5.1.2: The City will continue to monitor, and when appropriate, support state and national legislation and incentive programs related to historic preservation.

Policy 5.1.3: The City will investigate, and when appropriate, pursue grant and/or other funds that will assist in funding rehabilitation or restoration of historic properties on an on-going basis.

Policy 5.1.4: The City will continue to make available CDBG funds for appropriate historic preservation purposes.

Policy 5.1.5: The City will continue to provide information and technical support in the use of all local, state and federal financial incentives that are available, and will attempt to raise public awareness about these incentives.