

February 7, 2003

Business Operations
Larry W. Stanearth, Chief Business Officer

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF N.E. 1 COURT

COMMITTEE: FACILITIES PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

Background

At its meeting of December 11, 2002, the Board unanimously approved an item proposed by School Board Member Perla Tabares Hantman, which directed the Superintendent to explore closure of the right-of-way of N.E. 1 Court, between N.E. 15th Street and N.E. 16th Street, with information to be brought back to the Board on January 15, 2003. By way of memorandum to the Board on January 13, 2003, staff advised that it was in the process of determining the approximate costs and time frame necessary to resolve a number of outstanding issues, relative to the Tentative Plat (Plat) which was previously approved by the City. The following is the current status of staff's research:

- staff contacted the City of Miami Parking Authority concerning the removal of the parking meters, with the resultant loss of income to the City, and a response is anticipated by early February;
- the School Board Attorney's Office has indicated that it can supply the necessary Opinion of Title, including appropriate language dealing with the reversionary rights to the subject road, which the City requires. This in essence means that should road closure occur, the right-of-way would revert to the District;
- the Maintenance Department has provided a cost estimate of approximately \$25,000 for the removal of existing fencing and asphalt at two corner locations on the Board-owned parking lot located directly north of WLRN. This work would be required by the City, as part of the Plat;
- staff confirmed that the City will require written verification of the District's commitment to install a 12" water main extension within the N.E. 15 Street right-of-way, from Biscayne Boulevard to N.E. 1 Court. This construction was agreed to by the District a few years back, as part of the purchase of the former Jefferson Department Store, now used as the District's Annex Building. The Office of Capital Improvement Projects has provided an estimate for the work of \$488,174, for which funding is not currently available. Staff is investigating with the City the possibility of removing this requirement; and
- the City has advised that, as part of the plat approval process, the District will be required to provide certain subdivision improvements to the public rights-of-way in the vicinity of N.E. 1 Court. This cost is estimated at \$15,000-\$20,000.

Recommendation

At this point it appears that closure of N.E. 1 Court could be beneficial to the District both short and long term, as it would increase the District's flexibility to provide parking in the area, as well as create opportunities for redevelopment of adjacent Board-owned facilities.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida direct the Superintendent to actively pursue resolution of any remaining items required by the City of Miami as part of the closure of N.E. 1 Court, and to seek elimination or reduction from the City and Miami-Dade County of the requirement for the water main extension along N.E. 15 Street, from Biscayne Boulevard to N.E. 1 Court.

LWS/MAL:rr