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Memorandum

DATE: May 16, 2023
TO: CRA Board of Commissioners
FROM: Kimberly Vazquez, Redevelopment Project Manager III
THROUGH: Gregory P. Harrison, Executive Director
 Nguyen Tran, Director

RE: Tactical Urbanism/Beautification Plan – NW 6th Avenue

Background

In 2012, improvements to Blanche Ely/NW 6th Avenue from Atlantic Boulevard to NW 15th Street were completed. The improvements included landscape beatification, transit shelters, sidewalk and lighting improvements and other beautification features.

Since a significant amount of time has passed since the improvements were completed, the Avenue is need of upgrades and refurbishment. The Northwest CRA Advisory Committee and the CRA Board made this a priority project in FY2023 and allocated \$3.1 million in the budget to complete these improvements. As part of the project, the CRA enlisted the services of Kissinger Design to complete an analysis and site inventory of the area and to make recommendations for improvements.

The Tactical Urbanism Plan (“Plan”) includes an Analysis, Site Inventory, General Comments, Tactical Plan and a suggested Order of Magnitude with basic cost estimates. Some of the recommendations and observations in the Plan include short-term improvements such as making the furnishings consistent including the garbage cans, benches and bus shelters with longer-term goals which include replacement of light poles, creating a parking lot for Annie Adderly Gillis Park and removal of the roundabouts and replace with raised intersection tables. Other recommendations outlined in the Plan will require City, CRA and land owner support to make an impact to the area.

The Northwest Advisory Committee reviewed the Plan at their meeting of May 1, 2025 with a recommendation to adopt the concept of the Plan but for the City to take the lead on the budgetary items. The motion passed unanimously (Watkins was absent).

Recommendation

Staff recommends acceptance of the Tactical Urbanism/Beautification Plan – NW 6th Avenue for implementation purposes and for the CRA to lead the beautification initiatives outlined in the Plan utilizing the funds allocated in the FY2023 budget of \$3.1 for the improvements.