



**Neighborhoods Strong**

## **C.O.N.A. Annual Report 2015**

In keeping with our Mission, C.O.N.A has spent the year communicating, educating and acting as a neighborhood resource and advocate. Our relationship with City Leadership and staff continues strong and resulted in several initiatives, processes and procedure improvements, while strengthening C.O.N.A.'s role as a neighborhood advocate. Membership increased to 41 neighborhoods in 2015, the highest in years. Several neighborhoods were revitalized and several are in the process of reestablishing themselves.

Through the year we were instrumental in several City Council votes, with new ordinances being put in place, input to the Pier and Master Waterfront Plans, new codes processes, and the Recycling rollout.

Our member meetings through the year included several city officials and presentations on subjects like Codes, Public Safety, the Pier, and flood insurance. Information was presented in several ways to educate the membership, including regular updates to CONA Forums and our website. The year produced a lot more electronic communication by way of Forums, Facebook and direct email. An event calendar was established for neighborhood events and meetings and our website is continuing to become a more valuable resource center for the neighborhoods.

Our meetings with the City Administration continued on a regular basis. The Codes Committee produced several new ordinances that City Council subsequently approved. A new civil citation process was implemented as well. Ongoing discussions regarding sanitation have paved a way to addressing a lot of the neighborhood concerns, including the most recently announced move to alley pickups. C.O.N.A. was also instrumental in reversing the mayor's decision to put the Bait House up for public auction and instead have the city have it moved for future preservation.

Meetings with SPPD Chief Holloway have established a positive relationship, better communications and – at our urging – a pilot program between Codes and the police. We will continue to work with the Chief on building relationships between the PD and our neighborhoods.

An Economic Development Committee was established and worked with the Greenhouse and SCORE on a public seminar for growing small businesses.

In business matters, C.O.N.A. also was approved by the IRS as a charitable 501(c)3 organization, and we obtained officer and director liability insurance.

C.O.N.A. is committed to assisting with all neighborhood issues and concerns and to communicating those to the Administration in the City. C.O.N.A. knows that neighborhoods have common and unique issues as well, and that "one size does not fit all".

C.O.N.A. invites all neighborhoods to be a part of C.O.N.A. – Neighborhoods Strong! By becoming a member, joining a committee, running for office, becoming a volunteer, attending our meetings or just being engaged you can help keep our City one of the best in the country to live, work, play, and visit. Dues are only \$35.00 a year.

**JOIN CONA NOW!**

For more information on C.O.N.A. or to fill out a membership application form please see –

Our web site: <http://stpetecon.org/>