



## Town of Orange Park

2042 Park Avenue  
Orange Park, Florida 32073

December 14, 2015

For Immediate Release

At a 7pm meeting on Monday, December 14, 2015, the Town of Orange Park Nuisance Abatement Board voted to close the business at 300 Park Avenue currently operating as the Rodeway Inn.

The Board originally issued the order of closure on September 21, 2015 pending compliance with certain conditions. The Board held status hearings in October and again in November, both times granting additional time for compliance. The Board determined on Monday that compliance has not been achieved and the facility is ordered to cease operations as a hotel/motel or other similar use.

The Board acted under authority from the Town Code Chapter 17, Article II and Florida Statute 892.138 related to nuisance properties. The Rodeway Inn was declared a nuisance property by the Board on February 2, 2015. The Board has been working with the ownership of the facility since that time to abate the issues, but significant threats to the safety and health of the tenants, guests, and staff remain.

In order to provide ongoing shelter to many long-term residents of the facility, the Town has sought assistance from Changing Homelessness, the lead agency for managing homelessness issues in our tri-county area. This group coordinated a multi-agency response team that conducted assessments at the hotel on October 24. They will be actively working with those who want assistance in finding new housing arrangements.

The Town's Police Department responded to over 600 calls for service at this site alone from December 1, 2014 to December 1, 2015.

The Board is made up of five Town residents: Mr. Steve Jones, Chairman, Ms. Marge Hutton, Ms. Phyllis Renninger, Mr. Jerry Avinger, and Mr. John Capes. The Board attorney is Mr. Rick Buttner. Each board member was appointed by a Town Council member.

The Town was represented by Attorney Sam Garrison of Kopelousos, Bradley & Garrison in Orange Park.