



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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**Noticed Meeting Council Member Peluso and CM Johnson RE
Mock Press Conference
April 12, 2024
Minutes**

Location: Don Davis Room in City Hall located at 117 West Duval Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202

Attendance: Council Member Jimmy Peluso, Council Member Dr. Rahman Johnson, Executive Council Assistant Andrew Powers, Executive Council Assistant Brooks Dame, Florida Times-Union Reporter Hanna Holthaus, a full accounting of the attendance can be found on the sign in sheet.

Meeting Convened: 3:30 p.m.

Council Member Dr. Rahman Johnson welcomed the journalism students. He and Council Member Jimmy Peluso shared recent updates on the Emerald Trail Press Conference where the City of Jacksonville, Groundworks Jacksonville, Jacksonville Transportation Authority, secured a federal grant of \$147 million to design and construct five segments of the Emerald Trail. This represents the largest one-time federal grant the City of Jacksonville has ever received.

Council Member Johnson stated Mayor Deegan, JTA CEO Nat Ford, and Groundwork CEO Kay Ehas traveled to Washington DC in November to demonstrate Jacksonville's resolute commitment to bettering its communities. The group spoke with Reps. John Rutherford and Aaron Bean, as well as staff of Sens. Marco Rubio and Rick Scott, and other government officials about the Emerald Trail.

As part of "College Media Day" at The Florida Times-Union, the Council Members fielded questions from the students, ranging from focuses on community, gentrification, economic development, Capital Improvement Projects, financial audits, and the U2C.

Council Member Peluso praised the students for their clever questions. Council Member Johnson encouraged the students to be tenacious and to listen. He reiterated the value of research ahead of time and then active listening during the interview. He expressed his enthusiasm for the field of journalism.

Both Council Members thanked reporter Hanna Holthaus for the opportunity.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:31 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Brooks Dame, Executive Council Assistant to Council Member Jimmy Peluso. The following items were submitted for public record and can be accessed by contacting the Legislative Services:

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04122024 Agenda Noticed Meeting Council Member Peluso and CM Johnson RE Mock Press Conference

04122024 Sign In Noticed Meeting Council Member Peluso and CM Johnson RE Mock Press Conference

04122024 Minutes Noticed Meeting Council Member Peluso and CM Johnson RE Mock Press Conference

cc: Council Members and Staff

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