



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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**Noticed Press Conference Council Member Peluso
RE Anti-Hate Legislation
April 22, 2024
Minutes**

Location: 0 11th St West, Jacksonville, FL 32209

Attendance: Council Member Jimmy Peluso, Representative Angie Nixon for Florida House of Representatives District 13, Florida Senator Tracie Davis, Council Member Dr. Rahman Johnson, Council Member Tyrona Clark-Murray, Council Member Reggie Gaffney, Jr., Council Member Matt Carlucci, the Honorable Dr. Kelly Coker – Duval County Public School Board District 1, Sophia Velasco – Intern for Council Member Jimmy Peluso, Dr. Mobeen Rathore, Imam Bilal Malik, Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida – Director Nelson France, Dan Merkan- JASMYN, Reverend Adam Anderson, Deacon Edward W. Dawkins, Willetta Richardson – New Town Success Zone, James Eddy, Richard Danforth President of the Jacksonville Urban League, Dr. Rudy Jamison, Jr and Jimmy Midyette of the Human Rights Commission, Yildirim (Alex) Sivar, of the Interfaith Center Northeast Florida, Daniel Henry, Rev. Aaron Flagg, Jr. Richard Danforth - President Jacksonville Urban League, Isaiah Rumlin - President of Jacksonville NAACP. A full accounting of the attendance can be found on the sign-in sheet.

Meeting Convened: 4:30 p.m.

Council Member Jimmy Peluso opened the press conference, thanked the elected members, the faith leaders, and the community members for their attendance and support. He acknowledged Council Member Pittman for her work on anti-hate efforts. Council Member Peluso shared that it had been 34 weeks, or 240 days since the New Town Massacre. He stated the elected members came then and made promises, and today, were taking actions. The Council Member confirmed that his anti-hate legislation would increase penalties for crimes that were “committed with the primary purpose of expressing, or attempting to promote, animosity, hostility or malice against a person or persons or against the property of a person or persons because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, national origin, age or disability”.

Council Member Reggie Gaffney, Jr., thanked those in attendance. He reflected it was tragic that the loss of three lives led to this moment. He directed all to love more to promote meaningful change.

Council Member Dr. Rahman Johnson expressed his support for the legislation. He stated that hate was unacceptable. Council Member Dr. Johnson shared his personal experience from August 26, 2024. He stated explicitly that hate has no home here, that hate in any form is unacceptable and must be stopped.

Representative Angie Nixon for Florida House of Representatives District 13 shared her support for the community. She demanded a cease in hateful rhetoric; expressing that all should be protected and safe.

Imam Bilal Malik of Islamic Center of Northeast Florida expressed support, indicating that this was a good step forward. He confirmed all were connected through humanity. Imam Malik advocated that where any hate is expressed, all must raise their voices.

Pastor John Allen Newman of The Sanctuary at Mount Calvary Church agreed. He stated hate grows from insecurities, fed by a diet of lies and misinformation. Pastor Newman thanked the elected leaders in attendance and advocated for justice over vengeance.

President Isaiah Rumlin of Jacksonville NAACP condemned murdering and condemned hate. He voiced his support for Northwest Jacksonville.

Deacon Edward W. Dawkins of Mt. Olive Primitive Baptist Church shared that he started his career as a lawyer and was now a pastor. He promoted the responsibility of churches in growing and strengthening communities.

Florida Senator Tracie Davis spoke in support of this legislation and shared her desire to ensure protection at the state level.

Pastor R.L. Gundy of Mt Sinai Baptist Church shared a prayer asking for love in the hearts of all.

Council Member Peluso thanked all for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:10 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:

04222024 Notice CM Peluso Noticed Press Conference RE Anti- Hate Legislation
04222024 Minutes CM Peluso Noticed Press Conference RE Anti- Hate Legislation 04222024
Sign In CM Peluso Noticed Press Conference RE Anti- Hate Legislation
04222024 Handout 1 CM Peluso Noticed Press Conference RE Anti- Hate Legislation

cc: Council Members and Staff
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