

**CC Finance Committee Budget Hearings  
Review of Mayor's Proposed and Independent Agency Budgets  
2011/2012 Proposed Budget**

August 11, 2011

8:30 AM -- 12:00 Noon

Estimated Time: 11:00 AM (Duration: 10 Minutes)

Mayor Brown has proposed the creation of nine (9) Advisory Councils so that citizens can be directly engaged in advising him on key policy matters that are priorities for the City and his Administration. Following the success of the transition process, where 18 face-finding committees included 217 citizen members, benefited from 125 experts and staff and spent nearly 4,000 hours to produce more than 300 recommendations, Mayor Brown wants to continue to keep citizens engaged on key policy issues.

Each advisory council has a simple goal: to have citizens (our customers) provide direct input to the mayor's office on those policy issues that will most shape Jacksonville's future. It will also help provide the Mayor feedback from across the City, as members will represent a diverse set of backgrounds, neighborhoods, and interests.

Each Advisory Council to be made up of 10-12 members selected by the Mayor. These Advisory Councils will meet on a regular basis (monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly) -- and, when possible and appropriate, will meet in locations throughout the City -- in order for them to hear from the community at large. Each will be charged with the responsibility of producing an annual report which will outline their activities, achievements and recommendations.

The Council Auditor has raised questions about the funding proposed for the Councils and about what it perceives as duplication and overlap between the Councils and currently existing city departments and functions.

**Funding:** Mayor Brown intends for these Councils to be working groups that actively explore the challenges and opportunities facing Jacksonville. The funds proposed for these Councils will be used to support that work. Likely expenses include meetings in different parts of the City, printing, postage, workshops and miscellaneous expenditures. As it is deemed appropriate and within the scope of their responsibilities, members may participate in necessary travel to support their work.

**Duplication and/or Overlap:** The Council Auditor has suggested that the proposed Councils duplicate and/or overlap with current City departments or existing services, but the Mayor respectfully disagrees. The major difference is the direct nature of citizen involvement. While City departments and agencies have broad responsibilities, these Councils will encourage and highlight citizen input and feedback.



<b>Distinctions Between Currently Funded Services vs. Newly Proposed Advisory Councils</b>		
<b>Currently Funded Services</b>	<b>Newly Proposed Advisory Councils</b>	
Jacksonville Economic Development Commission	Advisory Council on Downtown	Unlike JEDC, which has a broader focus which includes working to bring new businesses and industry to Jacksonville, this Advisory Council will focus on citizen driven recommendations to improve and revitalize downtown.
Veteran & Disabled Services within Recreation and Community Services	Advisory Council on Military Affairs	Veteran & Disabled Services assists veterans and their families when applying for social and educational assistance. This Advisory Council will engage citizens in the multiple issues related to ensuring that Jacksonville remains a strong military community.
Housing and Neighborhoods Department	Advisory Council on Neighborhoods	This Advisory Council will focus on citizen driven recommendations to positively impact neighborhood growth and development, and ensure that the Mayor stays engaged with Jacksonville's 250 neighborhoods. The Housing and Neighborhoods Department ensures affordable housing for those who require assistance, funds activities to redevelop blighted areas and administers the Northwest Jacksonville Economic Development Fund and the Jacksonville Housing Finance Authority.
Public Service Grants and Cultural Service Grant	Advisory Council on Quality of Life	This Advisory Council will prioritize citizen driven recommendations to improve the quality of life regarding the environment, natural and cultural resources. The Public Service Grant Program (PSG) contracts with non-profit agencies to equip residents with necessary tools to facilitate their well being through intervention, education and opportunity and the Cultural Service Grant Program provides general operating support for Duval County cultural organizations. They have grant functions, not policy functions.
Adult Services Division within	Advisory Council on Seniors	While the Adult Services Division is a direct service provider, this Advisory

Recreation and Community Services		Council will capture citizen driven policy recommendations regarding seniors.
Jacksonville Port Authority	Advisory Council on the Port & Export	While the JPA has broad responsibilities, this Advisory Council will engage a wide array of citizens on critical economic issues such as port business development and export opportunities.
Jacksonville Children's Commission and Jacksonville Journey w/i the Public Safety Initiative	Advisory Council on Youth (12- 19)	The Mayor strongly believes that some of the best ideas on how to create opportunities for future generations come from members of those generations. This Advisory Council will allow Youth to advise the Mayor on issues they are facing.
Jacksonville Children's Commission	Advisory Council on Education & Workforce Development	This Council will work with the Mayor's Education Commissioner, Duval County School Board, the Chamber and a variety of interested citizens to capture the best citizen ideas on how we encourage a strong education system that helps prepare our children for the workplace.
Equal Business Opportunity Office w/I Central Operations	Advisory Council on Small Business & Entrepreneurship	While the Equal Business Opportunity Office (EBO) was designed to promote fair and equitable opportunities to all vendors participating in the Jacksonville Small and Emerging Business (JSEB) program, this Council will actively engage small businesspeople in the sharing of ideas to help grow this vital section of our economy.