

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 425

4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

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**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SAFE AND HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**City Council Chamber, 1st floor, City Hall**

**February 28, 2018**

**1:00 p.m.**

**Location:** City Council Chamber, City Hall – St. James Building, 117 West Duval Street

**In attendance:** Council Members Reggie Brown (Chair), Anne Brosche, Lori Boyer, Garrett Dennis, Sam Newby

**Also**: Peggy Sidman – Office of General Counsel; Tommy Carter – Council Auditor’s Office; E. Denise Lee and Jordan Elsbury – Mayor’s Office; Yvonne Mitchell – Council Research Division

**Meeting Convened**: 1:05 p.m.

Chairman R. Brown called the meeting to order, and the attendees introduced themselves for the record. He recently participated in a ride-a-long in Districts 8 and 10 with Ms. E. Denise Lee, Director of Blight Initiatives, department heads, and citizens. He is interested in combining efforts with the Neighborhood Department, Office of Blight and Public Works to address issues within the community. The recommendation is to conduct a citywide survey that engages more employees to identify concerns. The survey seems to be a reasonable activity to establish; however, there has to be a process and guidelines for the follow-up phase.

In response to CM Boyer’s question, Ms. Lee stated she would follow up with the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office regarding the cameras for illegal dumping. Additionally, Ms. Lee will provide further details about the use of inmate labor in collaboration with upcoming blight cleanup activities.

Director Mike Bruno, JSO Patrol & Enforcement, reported that cameras were purchased with monies from the trust fund. The cameras resulted in a few arrests since installation in 2014-2015. However, the service life expired due to inclement weather conditions. JSO is currently researching for a better quality camera with expanded features. Site surveys are being conducted to determine a priority location list for the cameras. Director Bruno stated that the new cameras will be used as surveillance with illegal dumping, parks, and violent crimes. JSO is partnering with a vendor to provide cameras for a six-month pilot program called Project Green Light. The project derives from a public-private-community partnership out of Detroit that blends a mix of real-time crime-fighting and community policing aimed at improving neighborhood safety, promoting the revitalization and growth of local businesses, and strengthening JSO’s efforts to deter, identify, and solve the crime.  The committee requested to have additional input regarding the camera locations. Chairman R. Brown commented that the committee wants to engage in discussions related to long-term solutions and cost analysis.

Mr. Daryl Joseph, Director of Parks & Recreation Department, provided an update on the status of Brookview Park and Simonds Johnson Park improvements. He provided a power point presentation to show the before and after pictures of each site. Brookview Park improvements will include a community garden. He shared that approximately 30 residents volunteered in the initial cleanup. Simond Johnson Park improvements include conversion of LED lights, fitness equipment, renovating existing basketball courts, and resurfacing the walking trails. The improvements are expected to be completed by the end of spring.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 14, 2018, at 1:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

Upcoming Topics:

1. Utilization of inmates with tipping communities
2. Reducing response time for handling issues in the CARE system
3. Retention Ponds

Chairman R. Brown requested that a representative from the Housing Department and Director Lee are present at the next meeting. CM Dennis suggested the committee consider making recommendations to JSO regarding the distribution of forfeiture funds. In addition, he encouraged the committee to begin introducing legislation to appropriate funds from various sources to assist in the tipping communities. He requested to have a status report on the operation of the cameras in Grand Park.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

\* The written minutes for this meeting are an overview of the discussion. For verbatim comments, the audio version may be retrieved from the Office of Legislative Services.

Minutes: Yvonne P. Mitchell, Council Research

03.09.18 Posted 9:00 p.m.

Tapes: Special Committee on Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods meeting – LSD – 02.28.18

Handouts: Special Committee on Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods meeting – 02.28.18