

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 425

4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

904-630-1377

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SAFE AND HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS**

**MEETING MINUTES**

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

**Wednesday, May 9, 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), Sam Newby, Bill Gulliford, Lori Boyer

**Also**: Paige Johnston– Office of General Counsel; Tommy Carter – Council Auditor’s Office; Chiquita Moore – ECA AL Group 5; Gerrie Ford-Hardin – ECA Dist. 5; Adri Segui – Legislative Services; Yvonne Mitchell – Council Research Division

See sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

**Meeting Convened**: 1:01 p.m.

Council Member R. Brown called the meeting to order and the attendees introduced themselves for the record. He briefed the committee on the structure of the remaining sessions.

Mr. Kirk Wendland, Office of Economic Development, provided a detailed review of the Economic Development Projects Summary. He stated that job development is essential to creating safe and healthy neighborhoods. Since July 1, 2015 – April 25, 2018, 16 out of 33 projects within the City have been based in Districts 7, 8, 9, and 10. These projects have created 2,110 jobs and generated $5,260,948.00 in projected county taxes. The projected capital investment totals $542,925,481.00 with a maximum City investment of $25,039,800.00. Mr. Wendland shared background on the Façade Grant program before reviewing the criteria. The funding is approved based on the economically distressed area criteria. Level 1 requires a percentage (125% Duval County average) of Labor Force is unemployed. Level 2 needs a median household income that is 60% below the Duval County average. In regards to CM K. Brown’s inquiry, Mr. Wendland presented a map depicting the Leve 1, Level 2 and former EDA areas after boundaries are updated. Approximately 1440 business are within the six census tracks in these former EDA areas.

In an attempt to educate the public about the grant before the boundary changes, the Office of Building Inspections notified all licensed contractors doing business with the City. The contractors can inform business owners of potential funding. Also, the Neighborhoods Department emailed information to all registered CPAC organizations.

Mr. Wendland state information has been distributed at various community events and a direct mailer is expected within the next few weeks. The cost of the mailer estimated at $6,000.00 and the funds have been identified.

Mr. Wendlad proceeded to discuss recommended changes to the grant program which include:

* modifying the public to private dollar match ratio from 1:1 to 2:1;
* allow documented contribution of materials to count toward private match;
* expand eligible improvement list; and
* enable administrative approval with notification to City Council and Council Auditor.

He believes the proposed recommendations will allow the program to be more effective and efficient. CM Gulliford emphasized the importance of focusing on what is the City’s overall goal? He wants more effort in targeting and promoting capital investments to bring more businesses that will employ people in these areas. There was some discussion related to incentives to businesses utilizing existing structures in commercial distribution areas.

CM R. requested Mr. Wendland to provide strategies that drive new business to EDAs in his final report to the committee. Per inquiry, Mr. Wendland confirmed that the residential population is the qualifying criteria to determine an area as an EDA. CM Boyer voiced her concern about vacant/ dilapidated properties in a particular commercial census track being excluded from the EDA classification. There needs to be an additional consideration regarding sites that may not have the residential component to capture the properties that have potential benefits. CM R. Brown recommended that outreach become an active effort in the promotion of the program. He suggested that data is kept from door-to-door outreach; sign-in sheets from CPAC meetings, etc. The committee agreed to accept Mr. Wendland’s recommendations. Ms. Paige Johnston will prepare the legislation on behalf of the committee.

Ms. Paige Johnston provided an update on questions regarding Inmate Labor and Alternative of Funding Inmate Labor. Article 8 of the Charter gives the Sheriff discretion to manage, operate, and control enforcement and safety issues with the consolidated government. The Council has the authority to decline to approve any appropriation but cannot insert Council’s preference over the Sheriff’s discretion. There are opportunities to utilize funding with a third-party to supervise inmate crews for blight removal. Salvation Army and the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) have experience with utilizing the inmate labor. Lastly, JSO officers are allowed to have secondary employment to oversee specific tasks. Thus, collaboration with another entity to operate a program utilizing government to hire JSO officers is permissible.

CM R. Brown will meet with JSO, Public Works, and Parks Departments to discuss further discuss implementing a program to address blight and utilize inmate labor. He will request them to provide a presentation at the June 6th or June 23rd meeting. All departments will be notified to present a final report at the June 6th meeting.

The next meeting is Wednesday, May 23rd at 1:00 p.m. The agenda topics will include:

* JEA (discuss infrastructure)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:19 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

05.12.18 Posted 4:30 p.m.

Tapes: Special Committee on Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods meeting – LSD – 05.09.18

Handouts: Special Committee on Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods meeting – 05.09.18