

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION TOWN HALL MEETING

DATE: Thursday, October 17, 2019

TIME: 5:33 p.m. - 7:07 p.m.

PLACE: Jacksonville City Council Chamber
First Floor
City Hall at St. James Building
117 West Duval Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lindsey Brock, Chairperson
Ann-Marie Knight, Vice Chairperson
Jessica Baker, Board Member
Hon. William W.C. Gentry, Board Member
Charles Griggs, Board Member
Chris Hagan, Board Member
Nick Howland, Board Member
Heidi Jameson, Board Member
Emily Lisska, Board Member
Nelson McCoy, Board Member
Celestine Mills, Board Member
Betzy Santiago, Board Member
Hon. Ronald V. Swanson, Board Member

ALSO PRESENT:

CRC Staff:

Jessica Matthews, Chief of Legislative
Services
Jessica Smith, Legislative Assistant
Crystal Shemwell, Legislative Services
Jeff Clements, Chief of Research
Paige Johnston, Office of General Counsel
William Coffee, Information systems
administrator.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Good evening,
3 everyone. We will call the Town Hall to
4 order. And our first order of business is
5 introduction of the Commission members. So
6 we will start on my far left.

7 Judge Swanson, if you could, please just
8 go ahead and introduce yourself. And we may
9 need to pass down a microphone there.

10 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Good evening,
11 everybody. I'm glad to be here and I'm glad
12 you all are here. And all of us, I'm sure,
13 look forward to the opportunity to hear your
14 thoughts on these matters.

15 My name is Judge Ron Swanson. I live in
16 Jacksonville Beach. I'm a Florida native.
17 And I'm just happy to be here.

18 COMMISSIONER MILLS: Hello. My name is
19 Celestine Mills, born and raised in
20 Jacksonville, Florida, live on the west
21 side. And I am truly ecstatic about being
22 on this Charter Revision, and I hope you
23 look forward to what we may be able to
24 recommend. And, hopefully, we can share
25 some ideas tonight that we have looked into.

1 Thank you so much for your time.

2 COMMISSIONER McCOY: Good evening. My
3 name is Nelson McCoy. I am not from
4 Jacksonville, but I've been here since 2004.
5 I look forward to continuing to serve the
6 community, as I have been since I've moved
7 here. And this has been really an
8 interesting process, and I'm thoroughly
9 enjoying it.

10 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: I am W. C. Gentry.
11 I am also born and raised here in
12 Jacksonville. I grew up over on Talleyrand
13 Avenue. And I'm a lawyer and have been
14 involved in the community activities for
15 many, many years. Very pleased to serve on
16 this Commission.

17 And thank you all for coming here
18 tonight. Hopefully, we can share some ideas
19 that will help our community move forward.

20 VICE CHAIRPERSON KNIGHT: Good evening.
21 I am Ann-Marie knight. I also was not born
22 in Jacksonville. I was born in London,
23 England. So I am an American by choice,
24 naturalized citizen. I served 24 years in
25 the Navy. And I look forward to hearing

1 your thoughts and representing the greater
2 community on this Commission. Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Good evening. My
4 name is Charles Griggs. I am a native of
5 Jacksonville, Florida, born here and raised
6 in Durkeeville area. And looking forward to
7 hearing your comments this evening and
8 having you engage in the process.

9 COMMISSIONER HAGAN: Hey, good evening,
10 everyone. My name is Chris Hagan. I am a
11 lifelong resident of the City of
12 Jacksonville, actually third generation
13 Jacksonvillian. Been involved with
14 governmental affairs for my entire business
15 career. Started with a trade organization
16 and currently own my own business. And
17 excited and honored to serve on the Charter
18 Revision Commission.

19 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Hi there. I'm
20 Heidi Jameson. I'm a Floridian, but I've
21 only been a resident of Jacksonville for
22 three years. I live in Atlantic Beach. I'm
23 very excited to be on this Commission, and
24 looking forward for this evening. Thank
25 you.

1 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Hello. I'm Emily
2 Lisska. I'm a native of Jacksonville,
3 Florida, as well. Spending my early life in
4 the north side of Jacksonville, now in the
5 Mandarin area. I spent a lot of time in the
6 history arena; and in that regard have
7 focused from time to time on the history of
8 consolidation and the issues surrounding
9 consolidation.

10 Like everyone here, we're so pleased to
11 have you here, and hear your comments and
12 input for what might bring us better
13 government in Jacksonville. Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER SANTIAGO: Good evening,
15 everybody. I have a little bit of a sore
16 throat. But my name is Betzy Santiago. I
17 served for four years with the
18 Administration. And I'm now working for
19 FSCJ. I was originally born in Puerto Rico,
20 but have been in Jacksonville for most of my
21 adult life.

22 Thank you so much for coming out
23 tonight. It's really important that we
24 really focus on the founding documents and
25 how we can better improve our future.

1 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: And, again, I'm
2 Lindsey Brock. Since everybody was telling
3 you where they're from, I always like to say
4 I was born on the banks of the Kentucky
5 River, came to Florida by the grace of God,
6 by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad.
7 My father worked for what became CSX, that
8 brought us here when I was a teenager.

9 One thing I would like to do that's not
10 on the agenda, but I would ask if folks
11 would stand. I want to have a moment of
12 silence for the passing of Elijah Cummings,
13 great, great leader. So I would like for us
14 just to have a moment of silence just in
15 honor of his life.

16 (Moment of silence.)

17 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you. I will
18 sit down now. Our next item on the agenda
19 is remarks from the Chair on our procedures.
20 So, one, to echo what's been said, thank you
21 so much, those of you who are here to share
22 ideas.

23 Hopefully, you have gone to the table
24 and everyone has got a copy of the topics.
25 I wanted to tell you how these have been

1 generated. We -- by we, I mean mostly the
2 folks in research staff -- went through the
3 minutes, been listening, they have been
4 gathering topics that have been expressed by
5 the different speakers who have come to us.

6 Again, a little bit of history on what
7 we have been doing: We had our first
8 meeting on July 31st. By ordinance code, we
9 have to provide our report eight months
10 after our first meeting, which means it will
11 be due by March 31st.

12 We have had numerous folks come and
13 speak to us, John Delaney; Wyman Duggan,
14 Representative Wyman Duggan, who chaired the
15 previous task force; Jerry Holland, Property
16 Appraiser; Mike Weinstein who served in
17 numerous administrations and capacities in
18 city government; we had Sheriff Mike
19 Williams; Representative Jason Fischer; we
20 have had Lori Hershey, who is Chair of the
21 School Board; as well as Dr. Green, the
22 Superintendent; Audrey Moran, who has served
23 the City in various capacities as well;
24 Carla Miller; Chris Hand; Jim Overton, our
25 Tax Collector; Ronnie Fussell, our Clerk of

1 Court; Mike Hogan, our Supervisor of
2 Elections; we had Dr. Pauline Rolle; we had
3 the Honorable Glorious Johnson come speak to
4 us; Honorable Lori Boyer, who also, in
5 addition to being the head of the DIA, she
6 was past City Council President and chaired
7 the Blueprint Task Force Number II that was
8 looking at consolidation. And her group
9 made several recommendations, and we've been
10 reviewing that report. And we had Richard
11 Rossi, of the JAA; and Jessica Shepler from
12 the JTA, who have all come and spoken to us.

13 That's not a complete list, but I wanted
14 to let you know that those are some of the
15 folks that we have been listening to and
16 talking to and getting ideas on where we can
17 make possible changes to the Charter.

18 So what we're hoping for tonight is you
19 should have one of the blue comment cards.
20 And, if you would, fill those out. We have
21 the microphone here. And either you may
22 comment on the topics that we have, if there
23 is something that you say, "Hey, I think you
24 need to add this under this topic," or there
25 may be a new topic that you look at this

1 list and you say, "You haven't considered
2 this; we would like to see this on your list
3 of subjects." That's why we're here. So
4 that's what we're hoping to get.

5 We will have the timer at three minutes.
6 There may be questions that come from the
7 folks here in the Commission.

8 We wanted to do it down here at this
9 level because it can sometimes be a bit
10 intimidating when you see everybody up there
11 on the dais. And this is really an
12 opportunity to hear from you. So that's our
13 focus.

14 With that, any questions from anyone on
15 the Commission?

16 Do we have any comment cards of folks
17 who want to speak?

18 MS. DANNHEIM: Yes.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Perfect. Then all
20 you need to do is bring me that card so we
21 have a record, and give us your name and
22 address and then -- oh, we got a bunch.

23 MS. DANNHEIM: Well, just two.

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Well, then Johnny
25 Crews.

1 MR. CREWS: That's me.

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: You're Searcy?

3 MS. DANNHEIM: Yes.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Then we'll do
5 that, Searcy.

6 MS. DANNHEIM: You're making me nervous.

7 Okay. So, as you said -- and just thank
8 you so much for having this meeting and for
9 giving us the opportunity to come and share
10 some information and concerns about a
11 particular area of technology as it may
12 affect the Jacksonville Charter, because it
13 relates to JEA and all of that sort of
14 stuff. So -- and John is more technical
15 than I am. So I'll speak just from my own
16 point of view.

17 But so my friends -- just this one
18 friend, as a matter of fact -- as you all
19 know the Duval County Public Schools has a
20 holiday and pretty much everybody has a
21 holiday tomorrow. So, unfortunately, many
22 of our group -- there are 228 of us so
23 far -- actually, I think more than that, but
24 they have responsibilities elsewhere
25 tonight. So my friends and I are here to

1 speak about 5G, and our concerns about 5G,
2 and its impact on the Jacksonville Charter.

3 We know Jacksonville's position as one
4 of the first U.S. cities scheduled to have
5 full implementation of this technology,
6 which is, in our view, microwave radiation
7 at greater frequencies than ever before.
8 And, as I understand it, it will be like a
9 blanket of radiation 24-7, or, as the
10 experts say, like living in a microwave. So
11 I urge y'all to consider this in your
12 discussions.

13 Backing up, my family and I moved
14 here -- this is our 15th year, so we're not
15 natives, but we're not so new. And we've
16 raised our three children here. And a
17 couple years ago we moved to the Riverside
18 neighborhood, which is something I always
19 wanted to do, especially after serving on
20 the Jacksonville Historic Preservation
21 Commission. And, as my children would say,
22 "Mom, Riverside is lit."

23 So we all agree, we love riverside, we
24 love the fact that we can walk to cafes and
25 restaurants and shops and ride our bikes

1 everywhere. It's been a fun kind of change
2 for our lifestyle. We love it.

3 But with 37 towers and almost 400
4 antennas within two miles of my house,
5 that's not the kind of lit that we want.
6 It's lit all right, but I'm told that that's
7 only the beginning.

8 And so my primary concern is about the
9 health effects of 5G. My friend here is
10 going to speak more about -- more about the
11 specifics.

12 So equally concerning is the fact that
13 5G is just being rolled out under the radar
14 with rapid installation of a lot of
15 technology and equipment and antennas
16 without people's consent or knowledge.

17 5G, it's not safe, it's not pretty. And
18 so it can't be for Jacksonville. So stop 5G
19 Jax.

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Can I get you to
21 give us your name and address, please. I
22 think we forgot that.

23 MS. DANNHEIM: I should know better.

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: That's all right.

25 MS. DANNHEIM: It's Searcy Dannheim, and

1 I'm at 2118 St. Johns Avenue.

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you so much.

3 MS. DANNHEIM: 32204.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

5 MS. DANNHEIM: Thank you, thank you so
6 much.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Crews, name and
8 address. And you have 5G as well.

9 MR. CREWS: Okay. My name is Johnny
10 Crews, I live at 12745 Plummer Grant Road,
11 that's in the Mandarin area.

12 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Could you move
13 your microphone up a little bit?

14 MR. CREWS: First time I ever spoke in
15 front of y'all, so a little nervous.

16 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: We're all friends.

17 MR. CREWS: Anyways, again, my name is
18 Johnny Crews. I live in the Mandarin area,
19 12745 Plummer Grant Road.

20 I've been in the electronic service
21 industry all my life. I actually started in
22 '76. I thought I was going to work for
23 Offshore Power Systems as an electronics
24 tech, but that went away. So I started
25 working on TVs and antennas and RF

1 technologies back in '76. So my exposure to
2 ray of frequencies has been since the
3 beginning, always been heavy in electronics
4 and physics. And I monitored the
5 technologies as they've grown over the years
6 I've seen it since the vacuum tube days to
7 what we have today.

8 One thing that concerns me about 5G, as
9 related to existing RF technologies, it's
10 not tested fully. It's tested for what they
11 call ionization or where it basically heats
12 up tissue, but -- kind of like your
13 microwave does to the hotdog at home. But
14 what happens is the long-term exposure can
15 cause chronic problems, physical problems.

16 And the new 5G is on the wavelength
17 that's not been tested fully. The health
18 hazards on it -- so far the industry tests
19 have not been tested at all. Scientific
20 communities have tested the frequencies and
21 found health hazards. And, if you ask an
22 industry person, they say, well, it meets
23 the SAR requirements, which is the specific
24 absorption rate.

25 But those frequencies that they're using

1 are not -- it's okay for directed energy
2 like satellite, direct line of sight
3 communications, beautiful technology. But,
4 when it comes to a broadcast type signal,
5 it's not healthy, mainly because of the
6 frequency and the particular pulse rate.

7 The human body can deal with RMF and ray
8 of frequency signals periodically, but when
9 it's continuously pulsed and you can't
10 have -- it's kind of like getting x-rays
11 24-7. If you get away from it, it's fine;
12 but, if you have it exposed to you all the
13 time, then you start having chronic problems
14 in biological systems. And there's not a
15 lot of talk about that unless you're in some
16 scientific community that's been talking
17 about it.

18 Europe knows about the issues, the Navy
19 knows about the issues. I've had to be
20 aware of it because I'm a satellite
21 technician. When it comes to VSATs, I have
22 to be aware of the frequencies because of
23 overexposure as a technician. You don't
24 want to light a position and look in front
25 of it, you'll over-radiate.

1 So these antennas in 5G are constant and
2 they're close proximity to everything and
3 everybody. So nobody has done studies on
4 that, so it concerns me.

5 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. I'm going to
6 grab this microphone because I want to start
7 writing stuff down. So when you are --
8 because, again, this is basically for
9 everybody. You're going to hear me
10 constantly coming back and saying, "Where
11 can we deal with that in the Charter?"
12 "What is it that you would like for us to
13 consider putting into the Charter on this?"

14 Am I hearing that, with regards to
15 health, that technology -- being mindful of
16 technology with regards to the health of the
17 community?

18 MR. CREWS: Exactly.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. I'm going to
20 get one of these --

21 MR. CREWS: And also the zoning and the
22 placement of antennas affects -- they're
23 going to have antennas everywhere, even in
24 the historical area. Some of the antennas
25 are not very pretty.

1 I remember back in the satellite days
2 people would complain about the big, old
3 ugly satellite dishes and what affect they
4 had on property values. You won't have a
5 choice in this. Antennas are going up
6 everywhere.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. So antenna
8 placement, that's probably going to be
9 something more -- would be in the ordinance
10 code with zoning and land use, so that's not
11 something we can do. But, with regards to
12 health, you'll see one of our topics in
13 there relates to the health department. So
14 that may be something that we can put in
15 through there. So thank you.

16 Anybody else have any other questions or
17 anything?

18 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Let me ask a
19 question.

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes, Mr. Gentry.

21 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: I think you
22 alluded to this, but the microwave
23 radiation, as I understand it, is
24 cumulative, just like you mentioned x-rays,
25 that over time it continues to accumulate.

1 So it's not like a one-and-done or you get
2 away from it and come back and you start all
3 over again. Is that right?

4 MR. CREWS: That's right. The x-ray,
5 you go to the doctor, get an x-ray, you're
6 going to have some tissue effects, but you
7 can recover because you're going to be away
8 from it. But the technician giving you the
9 x-ray has to put on a led vest because
10 they're exposed to it the whole day with
11 patients.

12 And RF technologies is getting to the
13 point where we're so saturated by it, it's
14 having effects on us. We can't escape it.
15 Like, we used to go home and you're okay.
16 But now it's going to -- with 5G it's going
17 to be so saturated, because that's the rate
18 technology is going to work, it's going to
19 make the Internet and things work. So
20 you're not going to escape it anymore.

21 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Thank you.

22 MR. CREWS: Thanks.

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Anyone else
24 with a speaker card who wants to share any
25 ideas? Otherwise, we're just going to sit

1 here and look at each other for the next
2 hour and a half. Anybody, anybody else have
3 any -- Mr. Nooney, you've got one? I can't
4 imagine you missing up a chance for public
5 comment.

6 MR. NOONEY: Does anyone else have one?

7 Well, am I on the clock right now? It
8 ain't easier here.

9 All right. Well, hello. My name is
10 John Nooney, 8356 Bascom Road, Jacksonville,
11 Florida 32216, City Council District 4,
12 School Board District 3, House District 12.
13 And I'm also internationally known as
14 NoonShew. Throw it to me.

15 What I just want to share with all of
16 you, and I'll be saying -- I'll say it today
17 and I'll probably be saying it a month and a
18 year from now: When people say to me,
19 NoonShew, we're getting all this public
20 access and economic opportunity in our
21 waterways; I tell them, no, we're not.
22 We're gonna crush you, just crush you.

23 And so I am here before you that have
24 the power, as the Charter Revision
25 Commission, to seek an amendment to the

1 Charter seeking any CRA or DIA on the
2 waterways, that before you give that money
3 to anybody, that public access to that
4 waterway will be guaranteed for Joe Q.
5 Public.

6 Now I attended the meeting last night
7 over in San Marco -- now, again, too, you
8 have historic districts. You know, and I
9 really -- I don't want to be greedy with
10 this, you know, my big thing is downtown.
11 And I've shared with you before, in my
12 opinion it's now under federal. And, when
13 you have in here your little Charter
14 Revision Commission topics, and if this is
15 prioritize waterways and access, you know,
16 to me that is so weak. You know what, you
17 want to bring in some experts, bring in U.S.
18 Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville FWC, Jim
19 Suber, the Waterways Coordinator. You just
20 find out what are going to be the penalties
21 for a violation when you violate a waterways
22 access component to this.

23 Now, I was at that meeting last night.
24 And I'll tell you, you know -- and right now
25 it had to do with fishermen, and there was

1 two components to it. I'm just down to 50
2 seconds, but that -- but last night -- and
3 you'll be hearing more about it. You know,
4 it had to do with FIND grants, you know, our
5 Florida Inland Navigation District. You
6 know, that's our taxpayer money, that goes
7 throughout the entire county.

8 But, again, you know, I look at -- and I
9 would hope that you amend the Charter when
10 it comes to CRAs and DIAs, that's our
11 Downtown Investment Authority, Community
12 Redevelopment Agencies, Community
13 Redevelopment Areas, and they're throughout
14 the state of Florida. So you have that
15 power within you to address that public
16 access issue.

17 I look at Renew Arlington. You know
18 what, JU is out of that. You know, and ask
19 doctor, well, hey, you want to go kayaking
20 over there, can we go, no. So --

21 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

22 MR. NOONEY: All right. Well, thank you
23 for listening.

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: And we do -- as I
25 said, we put prioritizing waterways and

1 access on our topics list.

2 MR. NOONEY: But bring in the keynote
3 speakers so that you will be able to
4 formulate it, and it doesn't go to a
5 subcommittee and get lost. Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Any other speakers?

7 Mr. Nooney, if you could turn in your
8 card too, please.

9 MS. COLLINS: Well, there's a lot of
10 things I wasn't aware of, but the main thing
11 I came for was basically about --

12 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Name and address,
13 please.

14 MS. COLLINS: I'm sorry. It's Wendy
15 Collins, address is on file.

16 I basically came on the Duval County
17 School Board. I didn't realize there were
18 so many things on here. So, for instance,
19 they want to go to an elected
20 superintendent. So we haven't had an
21 elected superintendent since consolidation
22 and desegregation. One of the reasons they
23 did that, of course, is because we are a
24 special bunch of people in Duval County and
25 even across the nation.

1 So, with as many people as what we have
2 and the area that we encompass, you need to
3 be able to have a bigger selection of people
4 when it comes down to the superintendent of
5 schools. If a person has to be elected,
6 that's going to have to be someone just in
7 Duval County.

8 So, for instance, we wouldn't have had a
9 Dr. Vitti, we would not have Ms. Green.
10 And, whereas, I don't think that -- we may
11 not have that person here in Duval County
12 that could be the right person for us. I
13 believe, once you open it up and you look at
14 the different applicants that we have had
15 come in, that they all bring a different
16 perspective. And sometimes that's what you
17 actually need to get the best person.

18 So the other thing is that, you know,
19 you're looking at bringing politics in. And
20 I feel like any time that you're bringing
21 politics into the situation when it comes
22 down to the children, I'm sorry, I think
23 we're losing. One, because it's all about
24 money. So, like, say, for instance, I
25 wanted to be at that person, I may not have

1 that money to run an election. So you're
2 cutting out a big group of people, a very
3 big group of people. So I don't think it
4 needs to be done.

5 Not to mention the fact that it seems
6 like whenever we start electing officials,
7 then there is someone else behind the scenes
8 pulling those strings. Because where is the
9 money coming from funding that election?

10 Whereas, with our having an appointed
11 superintendent, then it is actually
12 determined by the people that we elected
13 from every district, so everybody is going
14 to have a say in that. And we chose who
15 those district people actually are. So
16 we're all going to be represented at that
17 table fairly.

18 And then as far as at-large school board
19 members, I'm not really sure where you
20 guys -- or whoever brought that forward is
21 going with that. So I would have to look
22 into it.

23 But expressly recognizing the Florida
24 State Constitution establishment of uniform
25 statewide education system, amendment

1 Charter Article 8 to reflect that the
2 education system is part of the uniform
3 system of state governance, and that the
4 state constitution and all general laws of
5 the state of Florida control and are in full
6 force and effect. So I don't really
7 understand --

8 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I tell you what, I'm
9 going to ask you a question -- or, actually,
10 I'm going to try and clarify something for
11 you so that you understand what we're
12 looking at. Under the at-large School Board
13 members, how that idea came up was, you know
14 at the City Council there are districts?

15 MS. COLLINS: Yes.

16 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: And then there is
17 at-large that are voted on --

18 MS. COLLINS: I understand all that.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: That's what they
20 were looking at, is should we add or replace
21 some of the district members or add on an
22 additional member who is an at-large,
23 elected by the whole county.

24 MS. COLLINS: So what was the reasoning
25 behind the fact they think we need at-large?

1 Adding more people or possibly --

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Adding more people
3 and simply providing a more countywide
4 representation.

5 MS. COLLINS: Is there something written
6 out with this information?

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: There is not.

8 MS. COLLINS: Is this just included in
9 the J1 bill that has been put forward about
10 where the J1 bill is about getting the
11 actual superintendent to be elected? So has
12 this been added into that bill? I mean,
13 like, where is it put forward that I can go
14 in and actually take a look at this
15 information?

16 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: This is the best
17 that we have right now.

18 MS. COLLINS: So there is no further
19 explanations on it?

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: This is just a
21 topic. And that's -- and what you have done
22 in expressing your view on it is exactly
23 what we're craving for, to hear from the
24 public. I will tell you, you know, I've
25 expressed it several times in our regular

1 meetings of my view that we as a Commission
2 should simply stay away from School Board
3 issues because there is the litigation
4 that's ongoing and because there is the J1
5 bill that may or may not be debated by the
6 legislature. So we've got the judicial
7 branch and we've got the legislative branch,
8 both of whom are elected by the people,
9 reasoning through these issues, and we're an
10 appointed board. So my own personal view is
11 that we should leave that alone and let
12 those other branches work through those
13 issues.

14 But, in answer to your question, these
15 were simply topics that have come up as
16 we've been discussing it. And when we go to
17 subcommittees, that's when we will be making
18 a little more detail. If this were to come
19 up as a priority, then that's where the more
20 detail and the granular level, to use the
21 buzz words in there, of what we will be
22 looking at. Does that answer your question?

23 MS. COLLINS: Yeah. I mean, I can go
24 back and I can look at the streaming that
25 you guys did on all the different -- because

1 I wasn't here to be at all those meetings,
2 just to see where some of this stuff
3 actually came up from.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Again, thank you for
5 giving us your view on these issues.

6 Who is next? You can see it's fun, it's
7 easy, it's enjoyable.

8 Mr. Griggs.

9 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: While we wait for
10 Mr. Covington to come up -- he can walk over
11 and hand you his card -- I just wanted to --
12 when we get to the subcommittee work, will
13 we have a mechanism for -- I know we'll be
14 discussing this back and forth and calling
15 in stakeholders and experts to help work
16 through these topics, the ones that end up
17 being priority. But will we have a
18 mechanism for the public to have input in
19 that process as well or will they have to
20 wait until that piece is over to kind of get
21 what we put together and then make comment
22 on it?

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: As I envision the
24 process working through, although you would
25 not be required to have public comment until

1 there would be a vote on the specific things
2 that the subcommittee is working on, if we
3 go that route of voting in subcommittee of
4 saying, this is what we want to present as a
5 whole, then you would have to have public
6 comment. My hope is that, just as in our
7 meetings we have public comment periods, is
8 that in the subcommittees we would have
9 that.

10 Also, as we begin to, in those
11 subcommittees, work out the specific
12 language that we're looking at, before we
13 get to a final determination on it, I would
14 like to have another town hall like this so
15 that we can put out the proposed language
16 that we're looking at and get some more
17 feedback from the public on those issues.

18 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Covington, name
20 and address, please.

21 MR. COVINGTON: Thank you. Name is
22 Kenneth Covington, 4261 Emerald Bay Drive,
23 Jacksonville, Florida.

24 I actually haven't looked at your notes.
25 I'm just going to make a couple general

1 comments. One, for the School Board item, I
2 have been in support of the tax referendum.
3 It should not have been delayed. We should
4 be moving forward. And, whatever is being
5 done with legislation that interrupts that
6 process, if it comes across your table, I
7 would hope that you would do what's in the
8 best interest of the children for School
9 Board items. I heard your comments, and
10 maybe that's to keep it off the table would
11 be the best thing.

12 However, I also wanted to just make a
13 couple general comments. With things that
14 are pertaining to School Boards, City,
15 Jacksonville in general, we need to be
16 setting legislation that avoids a lot of the
17 gamesmanship and the games that gets played
18 here in Jacksonville, Duval specifically.
19 Unfortunately, it goes on in the nation.
20 Because when we play games with politics and
21 with legislation, there usually are some
22 folks who will benefit. And, generally,
23 it's the folks who support the political
24 industry. And then there are a lot of
25 people who get hurt. And, as we've seen

1 recently, playing games with politics can
2 get people killed also. So I will say that
3 and leave that there.

4 I also did want to make a comment about
5 our elected officials and for you all, who I
6 think are volunteers: The things that exist
7 in our city, exist in our country are due to
8 systems that have been put in place. And
9 many of the legislations that are put in
10 place now is meant to perpetuate those
11 systems. So what we need is to have some
12 people in office who volunteer, who are
13 willing to interrupt and to disrupt systems
14 that create standing disparities and keep
15 people from being able to do well in life
16 and to help some who are already doing well
17 and to hurt those who are already hurting.

18 Typically, that's where we end up with
19 our legislation, a lot of our a political
20 gamesmanship. So, you know, the power
21 plays, the other little stuff that goes on,
22 we all know that. It's 2019 now. Part of
23 the process is to play on people not being
24 informed. There is enough information out
25 here now, there are more people that are

1 informed.

2 So we would hope that people who
3 volunteer, people who are elected would
4 serve the people and try to do the right
5 thing. That's all I got to say about that.

6 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Collins, can I
7 ask you some -- if you -- do you have the
8 list of the topics?

9 MR. COVINGTON: No. But I probably can
10 respond to whatever you have there.

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Here is what I'm
12 asking, because I want to ask you if these
13 sound like some of the issues that --
14 especially right there at the end that you
15 talked about. Under citywide strategic
16 planning, one of the topics that we have is
17 have the administration meeting with
18 community leaders quarterly or biannually to
19 discuss issues and coordinate efforts. We
20 have that down on there so that there is
21 that more of listening to the people and
22 trying to implement that. And especially,
23 if you look at the government structure, I
24 think we have some in there that would
25 hopefully address that.

1 I know one, if you look on the first
2 page, we talked about reviving Urban
3 Services District and an Urban Core
4 Investment Authority and specifically we put
5 it on there, fulfilling the promises of
6 consolidation, because we've heard from
7 several folks that have said the promises of
8 consolidation has not benefitted every part
9 of our city the way it was originally laid
10 out. We're looking at are there ways that
11 we can help that happen faster.

12 MR. COVINGTON: Infrastructure and \$3
13 billion worth of septic tanks completion,
14 which was promised during consolidation
15 which is not even being talked about with
16 this JEA sale is one of the things that
17 needs be talked about on a regular basis.

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. So you just
19 said some new things on here. I'm going to
20 write this down.

21 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: We have septic
22 tanks under city planning.

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: We dont' have
24 anything specifically related on
25 infrastructure.

1 MR. COVINGTON: The entire fix is not
2 ever being dealt with. There was, earlier
3 in the year, a mention of \$30 million, which
4 was just a tip of the iceberg of the problem
5 that exists. There is a \$3 billion
6 commitment that needs to be made to fix what
7 was said would be taken care of at
8 consolidation time, and that's been moved
9 off the table and ignored.

10 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Well, and we have --
11 specifically, we have references to septic
12 tank issues that is on our topic list. And
13 there have been within -- I think a couple
14 of the broader topics, that's one of the
15 specific ones.

16 So, again, to kind of explain how this
17 topic list is, we have them under broad
18 topics and those were the priorities that
19 we'll be looking at. And what we've tried
20 to do is, as we hear from people like you,
21 is to take these broad topics and some of
22 the more detailed suggestions, put them
23 under these broad topics.

24 So I wanted to make sure -- please get a
25 copy of them, because I think we've got some

1 of them, not all of them, but I think we
2 have some of the things that you talked
3 about. Again, thank you for coming out.

4 MR. COVINGTON: Since you gave me the
5 open ear, some of the other things that I
6 would come back and be more than happy to
7 speak on in the future is that there is a
8 lot of lip service given to fixing things
9 that don't get fixed. We have a lot of
10 programs that are Band-Aids and do not
11 really address the programs. And
12 expectation is people are not smart enough
13 to understand that what's being offered does
14 not really fix anything, but it just
15 pacifies people. So, you know, those are
16 the things we need people to be serious
17 about and try to do something to fix. Thank
18 you.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you,
20 Mr. Collins.

21 Oh, Mr. Griggs.

22 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Thank you,
23 Mr. Chair. And I'll just -- circling back
24 over what Mr. Covington mentioned.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I said Collins. I

1 apologize, Covington.

2 MR. COVINGTON: That's okay. I answer
3 to whatever you call me.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Just don't call me
5 late for dinner, right.

6 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Mr. Chairman
7 talked about Urban Services District and
8 potential Urban Core Investment Authority as
9 a recommendation. The purpose of that would
10 be, as he mentioned, is to sort of inventory
11 those items that were left behind and --
12 under some consolidation and address them
13 strategically and systematically without
14 regard for whatever administration is in
15 office or whatever city council member is
16 elected. So that is the hope to have -- at
17 least from a broader perspective, and then
18 it gets dealt with as we move forward.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. And,
20 Ms. Mills.

21 COMMISSIONER MILLS: Mr. Cummings (sic),
22 I just wanted to let you know we are
23 volunteers, but you have a group of people
24 who definitely take it serious about what
25 we're doing. And trust and know I'm going

1 to be here to represent those broken
2 promises, because they are broken, and we
3 need to find a way around it and stop
4 playing into some of the systems. So don't
5 think we're just volunteers. You got a
6 great group of people up here who
7 understand, you know, the needs. And that's
8 why we have you here so you can make sure
9 that we're on the right page.

10 MR. COVINGTON: Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. Anyone
12 else? Thank you.

13 Mr. Fulton, name and address, please.

14 MR. FULTON: I'm community activist
15 Jaquan Fulton. My address is 2812 West 10th
16 Street.

17 I would like to talk about the Duval
18 County School Board. I would like to keep
19 Ms. Green where she is. If we do not have
20 the right person to run a campaign and if we
21 don't have the right money or funding for
22 it, then we should just leave it where it is
23 because we waste too much time trying to
24 figure out who is for us, who is with us,
25 and who is going to stand by us. If we got

1 the right person already who has been
2 appointed, then we should just keep her
3 where she's at, because she really is
4 trying.

5 We have been having a problem with these
6 aging schools for a while. And now that it
7 is being talked about, we're just putting it
8 on standby, people are getting sick, people
9 are getting hurt, and people do not want to
10 put their children in these schools anymore.
11 And we have a high population of home
12 schools and online schools. And we need to
13 fix this problem before it gets worse.

14 So we should keep Ms. Green where she
15 is. We should not just walk around and
16 knock on doors and see what person wants to
17 take this job, because if we just knock on
18 doors, wait until a person can come be a
19 superintendent and they don't know what the
20 heck they're doing, it's like we're handing
21 them a fixed deck and telling them to win.
22 It's like playing spades: If you don't know
23 how to play, you're going to get knocked off
24 every time.

25 It's really, you know, it's really

1 aggravating and frustrating that the school
2 sales tax is being put on pause when it
3 should have been done like ten years ago or
4 before that. It should have been done way
5 longer. And now it's 2019 and we're talking
6 about this still. We need to find what
7 really is going on.

8 So we should keep Ms. Green where she
9 is. We shouldn't be kissing babies on the
10 head and knocking on doors saying, hey, come
11 be our superintendent, because if you have
12 that type of mentality to do that, then
13 you're going to have a whole lot of -- and I
14 say this lightly -- pissed off people. And
15 they're going to come here and be less
16 calmer than I am being because we really
17 need to stop this. We really need people
18 that is going to be for us and not just, you
19 know, knocking on doors, you know, saying,
20 hey, come do this, that's not going to work.
21 So I thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you very much.

23 All right. Thank you.

24 Mr. Roberts.

25 MR. ROBERTS: Yes. My name is Barney

1 Roberts. I reside at 137 East 18th.

2 Just for reference, under the citywide
3 strategy planning, ING was created back when
4 Mayor Austin was the Mayor. The CPAC is
5 supposed to accommodate that one feature.
6 Here we go again, something was established,
7 and if it's here in print, then that means
8 the protocol for why it was created is not
9 being followed. All that time that Mayor
10 Austin spent creating the CPAC should
11 address that item and that item shouldn't be
12 one of the issues.

13 For Duval County we have the largest
14 matrix for volunteers, parents, citizens to
15 be involved with their community. We in
16 Jacksonville have both Shadco, Sheriff's
17 Advisory and Mayor's Advisory. We should be
18 one of the most robust counties in the
19 nation. That's all I have to say.

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you. And,
21 Mr. Roberts, I will tell you that our
22 citywide strategic planning, that topic has
23 been primarily -- well, a lot of it has been
24 focused on how do we get the different parts
25 of the government talking to each other.

1 But you make a good point that CPACs and
2 Shadcos and the opportunities for public
3 engagement are certainly there. And thank
4 you for coming out.

5 Yes, Mr. Gentry.

6 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: If I may, on the
7 strategic planning item, which I think I was
8 one of the persons that tried to articulate
9 that, it wouldn't in any way affect Shadco
10 or the CPACs. The idea was primarily, as
11 Chair said, to have a strategic planning
12 commission that would identify the most
13 important issues for our community and try
14 to get all the agencies of the City working
15 together towards that end, instead of them
16 all going off in different directions. It
17 was not intended to impact on CPAC or
18 Shadco. I don't know if that's any help,
19 apparently not.

20 MR. ROBERTS: If they planned it back in
21 the day to where all of that can happen,
22 then what was it that shunned those
23 organizations from doing that? If John
24 Delaney was the Mayor and he did some stuff
25 and it moved us forward, what caused it all

1 not to be as though we got to replant it
2 again?

3 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Mr. Chairman.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes, Mr. Griggs.

5 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: I think the --
6 thank you. Thank you for your comments.

7 I think the thought is like you
8 mentioned, it was done back in Ed Austin's
9 administration. And nothing stops a new
10 Mayor, a new Council or whoever from
11 altering and changing how that's run and how
12 that's done if the planning -- they can
13 actually eliminate it if they want to. But,
14 if we deal with it in the Charter, then it's
15 embedded in the constitution and it can't be
16 changed by anyone, administration, or it has
17 to go through Council and everything like
18 that in order to be undone.

19 So the hope is that -- if it becomes a
20 priority, I'll say it like that, that we
21 have something that's codified that won't be
22 able to be changed so easily just by an
23 administration.

24 MR. ROBERTS: Can I ask a question?

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Sure.

1 MR. ROBERTS: Should the Shadcos and the
2 CPACs be added to the Charter?

3 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: That is going to go
4 up on the board.

5 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: That's a good
6 question.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. Thank
8 you.

9 Who is next?

10 Yes, sir.

11 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Mr. Chairman, I
12 think we have a comment from --

13 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Oh, we have a
14 comment, okay.

15 COMMISSIONER SANTIAGO: I'm sorry. I
16 was just thinking out loud here. And
17 perhaps what I understood that you said was
18 that we need to give more importance or more
19 validation to the CPACs and Shadcos and all
20 of those, and that perhaps we should include
21 them in our strategic plan as one of the
22 groups that would be included. Is that what
23 I'm understanding?

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I think that, yes,
25 that's it, was he put the idea out there,

1 and I thought that's something that we
2 haven't -- it probably would fall under the
3 strategic planning or maybe even the
4 government structure, perhaps we put it
5 under both, this idea of having these
6 citizens advisory boards actually in the
7 Charter. So thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Any other comments?

9 Mr. Hollingshead, thank you, sir.

10 MR. HOLLINGSHEAD: Thank you. And
11 thanks to each of you for your time, because
12 I know you've got plenty of other things you
13 could be doing with this time. Thank you
14 for your service.

15 I would like to make a recommendation,
16 if I could, maybe it's good, maybe you don't
17 think so. But it's something that I think
18 makes a lot of sense. In our country we are
19 like cats and dogs. We have republicans, we
20 have democrats, and each one hates each
21 other, each one can't stand to make it clear
22 how much they hate the other one. That's
23 crept into our state government, now it's
24 tooth and nail, and now down into the City
25 Council meetings. And that bothers me.

1 I see time after time people come up and
2 they express ideas to the Council,
3 suggestions to the Council, and they are
4 thanked for their time. And then 19 to
5 nothing, 19 to nothing, 19 to nothing. And
6 it's like why did these people bother to
7 waste their time.

8 Then I find out that some people,
9 perhaps, had campaign donations that were --
10 in the minds of some people may be causing
11 them to take a certain position. I think
12 that we need to make certain that we don't
13 allow that to be an issue. We need our City
14 Council decisions to be something that the
15 people will embrace whether they agree or
16 not, but at least would feel like it was
17 fair. And, to do that, I would recommend
18 that any person who is a City Council
19 representative would have to disclose if
20 they have donors who would financially
21 benefit from the position which they are
22 advocating. And, if they fail to do so,
23 then they would have to be penalized for
24 that.

25 It's a suggestion. I may be a smart

1 guy, I may be a dumb guy. But it's
2 something that I would really like to see
3 happen. Thank you for your consideration.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you. So we
5 have some comments.

6 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: I have a question
7 for the gentleman.

8 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Judge Swanson.

9 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Can you hear me
10 okay?

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: We need you -- I
12 think we have someone on the phone.

13 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: I appreciate your
14 comment. And it goes back -- I served in
15 the military for some time. And, when we
16 dealt with issues of ethics, we dealt with
17 not only was there a conflict, but was there
18 an appearance of conflict. And it -- you
19 know, we avoided not only actual conflicts,
20 but things that might create an appearance
21 of a conflict.

22 But, in terms of your input, you -- I
23 could see that, if a City Councilman was
24 advocating a position, it could be layers
25 down where someone would benefit. So the

1 question becomes are you talking about an
2 actual conflict or an actual benefit or an
3 apparent benefit or -- do you understand my
4 question?

5 MR. HOLLINGSHEAD: I'm concerned with
6 appearance. I can't judge anyone's heart.
7 I can't judge anyone's ethics unless I have
8 facts. I'm an old auditor. Give me facts,
9 I can make an assessment.

10 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: So your position
11 would be that, if there is not only an
12 actual conflict or an actual interest, but
13 the appearance of an interest --

14 MR. HOLLINGSHEAD: You betcha.

15 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: -- there should
16 be a disclosure?

17 MR. HOLLINGSHEAD: You betcha.

18 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Thank you. That
19 was my question.

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Any other?

21 Ms. Lisska.

22 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: I do think this
23 gets to an issue covered by the Charter
24 Revision Commission; and it is, you know,
25 where are campaign contributions coming

1 from. And it's often difficult to determine
2 where they're coming from. I mean,
3 otherwise, the donor list is available. I
4 mean, that's available. But who is that
5 donor, especially when you have political
6 committees and PACs, it's difficult to
7 determine. And for the -- I mean, what are
8 we going to do, spend all our time trying to
9 track that, those contributions back? So I
10 have sympathy for your position, because a
11 lot of this information you're looking for
12 is highly available, but other information
13 is not. And so thank you for bringing that
14 up.

15 MR. HOLLINGSHEAD: If I could, as an
16 example, how is it that a candidate can have
17 a half of an eighth-and-a-half-by-eleven
18 full-color-glossy-photo-both-sides mailer
19 day after day, after day, after day, after
20 day, after day in my mailbox each day paid
21 for by a different organization? Somehow or
22 other there is some serious coordination
23 going on somewhere from someone with some
24 serious money. Those are the kinds of
25 things that I have a concern with. Perhaps

1 we need to cap how much they can spend on a
2 campaign. I don't know.

3 I'm just concerned that it looks -- it
4 gives the appearance that it's bought and
5 paid for. And I know what that can do to
6 the trust in our government. That's my
7 concern.

8 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: I --

9 MR. HOLLINGSHEAD: You have a difficult
10 job.

11 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: I appreciate your
12 comments. I've seen the same campaign
13 contribution flier, campaign literature, and
14 I don't know how to identify, and I don't
15 think you really can, the money -- where
16 those monies came from for -- from those
17 PACs, from the groups. And it is
18 disconcerting for me as a voter.

19 And I also served -- I forget exactly
20 how many years, because politics got into
21 that too and those positions were changed.
22 But I served on the Florida Election
23 Commission for a while. So I've seen all
24 the splitting hair and the fine lines and
25 trying to determine the truth of a piece of

1 advertisement. And it's pretty liberal, you
2 know, what's allowed. And but I think it
3 makes it tougher for voters and individuals
4 to wade through it all. Thank you.

5 MR. HOLLINGSHEAD: Thank you very much.
6 Thanks for your consideration.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Gentry.

8 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: I was just going
9 to ask, didn't we have another speaker in
10 our meeting raise the issue of campaign
11 finance reforms being something we should
12 do?

13 MS. BUSSARD: It was me. It was me.

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: And we have that
15 under our ethics.

16 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: I think it needs
17 to be more clear than that, than ethics. I
18 didn't get the combination from ethics,
19 campaign finance, maybe I should. But, I
20 mean, I think the whole idea of campaign
21 finance reform is what is being alluded to
22 here may be a topic we ought to add.

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I've got campaign
24 financing there under ethics. And what I
25 just added, I wrote it up on here, conflicts

1 of interest.

2 And the Judge and Mr. Gentry and I,
3 we're in the legal side. We clearly
4 understand the whole idea of the appearance
5 of impropriety. And that's difficult to
6 codify, but we do have the ethics. At least
7 the department and structure is set up
8 within the Charter that came out of the
9 previous Charter Revision Commission, so
10 we've got it. And thank you.

11 Anyone else?

12 Yes, Mr. Griggs.

13 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Thank you,
14 Mr. Chairman. I was just kind of trying to
15 go back through my notes. And I do recall
16 that, when Ms. Miller was here, we did
17 discuss appearance of some type of
18 impropriety. I think what she discussed
19 with us was that elected officials and
20 stakeholders, people who have to report or
21 have some type of conflict, they do come to
22 her and get clearance or advice, and I think
23 they do as well from General Counsel's
24 Office, as well.

25 The problem is, if the law says it's

1 good, then you have people who move forward
2 anyway even if it -- the appearance is not
3 there. And there is really not a lot we can
4 do about it because they're following the
5 letter of the law as it is -- or the
6 requirements are, I believe, in the state.
7 I think I recall her saying some of the
8 challenges -- or maybe it was Ms. Green who
9 mentioned it, in the IG's office, that
10 challenges were -- laws that were on the
11 state books that we could not overcome.

12 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: And you're right on
13 that. I've got, actually, the ethics in a
14 nutshell that Ms. Miller handed out to us
15 that outlines the various state laws, and in
16 particular as it relates to the issue, sir,
17 that you raised. They do mention the
18 conflicts of interest. And, as it's set up,
19 I believe it's just the law -- and, again,
20 this isn't really -- I don't know that it's
21 Charter that we can do, but as the laws that
22 are out there, it's if you or a family
23 member could benefit from the action. So --
24 but thank you. It may not be something we
25 can actually get to the level to address

1 your concern, but thank you for expressing
2 it to us.

3 MR. HOLLINGSHEAD: And thank you for
4 listening.

5 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Anyone else?

6 Thank you. I'm going to go with Linda.

7 MS. DESHAUTEURS: That was good. That
8 was really good.

9 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: This would be like a
10 triple word score in Scrabble.

11 MS. DESHAUTEURS: But it's more than
12 seven letters, you'd have to be able to get
13 the 50-point bonus.

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I would think so.
15 Name and address, please.

16 MS. DESHAUTEURS: Linda Deshauteurs.
17 It's French, you don't pronounce half the
18 letters.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: They don't know how
20 to spell.

21 MS. DESHAUTEURS: My address is on file.

22 So there are two things that I would
23 like to address. One of them I feel would
24 fall under the government structure maybe as
25 one of your sub-bullets. I would like to

1 suggest that you have all of these -- the
2 role of the Council and elections and
3 considering dates and things, I would like
4 you to maybe consider putting in there some
5 type of a process for recall. How do we get
6 them out once they're in there? I don't
7 know if impeachment would be the right word,
8 but being able to recall someone.

9 And the other thing is -- and I don't
10 know where this would fall, and I don't even
11 know if this is something that you could
12 address, but I happen to be one of the
13 unhappy people that got thrown out of the
14 Council Chambers because we took a
15 spontaneous gasp at something that was being
16 said. And so we were thrown out because, as
17 a group, we were making too much noise. And
18 the Chairman Mr. Wilson warned us.

19 So what happened there was that the
20 Council members are free to disparage
21 people. And we were gasping at the rudeness
22 of the Council members. So is there not
23 some rule of order where -- was that civil
24 discourse but remaining civil. So we got
25 tossed out because we were incredulous over

1 the things that were being said.

2 So is there something you can write in
3 here that says you have to be nice if we
4 have to be nice; if you're insisting we be
5 nice, then set the example. That's about it
6 for me.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: And thank you. And
8 I don't mean to trivialize what you said,
9 but I had joked about our gathering here
10 this evening that I thought I would have a
11 sign that said "Be nice or leave."

12 But to address your question about
13 recall, there actually is a section in the
14 Charter, Article 15 deals with the removal
15 of officers and how that occurs. So that's
16 in there.

17 With regards to the others, that's
18 probably covered more under the Council
19 rules. So I don't know that it's something
20 exactly that we can do, but I would agree
21 with you that civil discourse is a priority
22 and is something that, I believe, as one of
23 the earlier speakers said, is sadly
24 certainly lacking at the national level.
25 But we're going to try our best to preserve

1 it here in Jacksonville.

2 MS. DESHAUTEURS: Great. So Article 15,
3 and it won't be off with their heads, we can
4 get them out.

5 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: It's not off with
6 their heads.

7 MS. DESHAUTEURS: I heard some of that
8 murmuring that night. Thank you very much.

9 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: There is a process
10 in the Charter.

11 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Mr. Chair.

12 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Judge Swanson.

13 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Thank you for
14 bringing up the issue of recall. I think
15 that's an important thing for us to look at.
16 I don't know if it's a Charter issue or not.
17 And I don't even -- there may be something
18 in the ordinances or somewhere within the
19 system that deals with that. But I think
20 it's a valid consideration on the part of
21 the general public to have an avenue to
22 address recall, and I'm grateful for that.

23 And more importantly -- maybe not more
24 importantly, but equally important, in my
25 view, is your comment about civility. I

1 think we live in a 24-hour news cycle that
2 breeds a lack of civility. And I don't
3 think it's healthy for us as a nation or a
4 community. And I think it's important for
5 people like you to stand up and say what you
6 just said, which is let's treat each other
7 with respect. And I'm grateful that you
8 took the time to say that to us. And I mean
9 that sincerely. Thank you.

10 MS. DESHAUTEURS: All right. And just
11 one other comment, I know my time --

12 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Back to the
13 microphone.

14 MS. DESHAUTEURS: I can't see. It's
15 this short thing.

16 Forgive my ignorance. I've been living
17 in Jacksonville just over 20 years, but up
18 until a year or so ago I was working 60
19 hours a week and I just hoped somebody was
20 at the helm that really cared. Now I'm
21 retired and I have the time to dabble and
22 listen.

23 So I'm not really sure exactly what you
24 do, but I do remember hearing that all the
25 recommendations you made ten years ago kind

1 of got blown off. So is there hope that
2 somebody will pay attention this time.

3 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes, there is. And
4 one of the items that we are looking at that
5 I'll be taking on as Chair is precisely to
6 move the Charter Revision Commission process
7 out of the ordinance code and into the
8 Charter itself, and looking at ways to where
9 there is some action up or down on the
10 recommendations that come out of this
11 process.

12 MS. DESHAUTEURS: Okay. Well, that's
13 good because then you won't feel like you're
14 wasting your time.

15 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: We are 100 percent
16 in agreement with that sentiment.

17 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Mr. Chairman.

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes, Mr. Griggs.

19 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: One question, I
20 just wanted to --

21 MS. DESHAUTEURS: By the way, you have
22 this fabulous smooth voice that I hear on
23 Melissa Ross' show all the time.

24 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Thank you very
25 much. Your check is in the mail.

1 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: If you can sing like
2 Lou Rawls, you got me.

3 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: I wanted to point
4 out under the Council procedures, it does
5 say Council shall determine its own rules
6 and order for business. So whatever, keep
7 the peace or leave, that has to come from
8 the top, so --

9 MS. DESHAUTEURS: Where can I find what
10 you're looking at?

11 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: If you go online
12 at COJ.net, on the Council, you'll see there
13 is a link there to Charter Revision
14 Commission. And under there you can click
15 on the actual Charter and ordinance code.
16 And all of these, everything we have in this
17 book is here. So you can read them
18 individually. I know all of us have been
19 reading every single line of the Charter,
20 haven't we?

21 MS. DESHAUTEURS: Oh, yeah. It looks
22 real interesting.

23 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: I have been
24 flagging and underlining. And, certainly,
25 it's weird because a lot of the things that

1 we're hearing this evening have been coming
2 up that I sort of have underlined at a
3 previous moment. And it seems like the
4 community is in sort of concert with issues
5 that we've kind of stumbled upon. So this
6 is a good conversation.

7 But the rules are made by the Council.
8 And, typically, the Council President
9 determines those rules, if they're going to
10 change any, committee assignments, committee
11 sizes or numbers come from the leadership,
12 you know, per year. And the Council
13 determines those.

14 MS. DESHAUTEURS: Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Anyone else?

16 All right. Next. All right,

17 Ms. Brooks.

18 MS. BROOKS: Hello. My name is JoAnn
19 Brooks, and my address is 2052 Covington
20 Circle West, 32246.

21 And you just about answered my question
22 just now: Where can you find this
23 information? I have looked online before.

24 But I also would like to know if there
25 are going to be any hard copies of the

1 previous Charter so we can compare what
2 you're proposing now. And do you have --
3 most of the information as far as the bullet
4 points here, are they available so that we
5 can understand what each bullet point means
6 and all that information? And then what is
7 the timeline that you have in order for this
8 to be presented to, hopefully, the citizens
9 of Jacksonville before a subcommittee or
10 before you all make a determination of
11 what's going to be done so we won't have to
12 have a recall? Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you. So I
14 will take on a couple of those questions
15 reverse order. The timeline, the timeline
16 that we're going to have is on October 25th
17 at our next meeting, which will be in these
18 chambers. We'll be sitting up at the adult
19 section, back up there. And we will be
20 going through this list of topics. We will
21 be ranking them. We're going to pick the
22 top three. We're going to look at those and
23 make a decision as to whether or not we
24 think that's enough for us to do. If we
25 think we can get one more issue in, then

1 we'll go to the fourth one.

2 And we will then break up into
3 subcommittees. And I will be assigning
4 those subcommittees for work on those top
5 four priorities that we have. There are
6 certain ones that I'm taking on as chair.
7 If you look on the last page. There is one
8 that says Chair, and those are the ones that
9 I'm going to do because I won't assign
10 myself to any subcommittee. And I'm going
11 to take on those myself and work on those.

12 I wish I had a better answer on how to
13 let you know what these mean, because
14 they've been generated over the course of
15 our meetings that began -- we had our
16 organizational meeting, as I said, on
17 July 31st. We met for about 30 hours; I was
18 counting it up, ladies and gentlemen. We've
19 had about 30 hours of meetings.

20 And the best I can say is the
21 transcripts are there; you see we have the
22 court reporter here. And they are
23 searchable. So, if there is an issue or
24 keyword in there, you should be able to
25 search that and pull it up and see what we

1 have said and what the speakers have said
2 regarding each of these issues.

3 So does that -- did that answer your
4 questions in there?

5 MS. BROOKS: Yes.

6 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. Thank
7 you.

8 MS. BROOKS: Oh, the previous Charter?

9 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: The previous, so
10 that, as well, if you go onto COJ.net and
11 you -- I believe it's on the City Council
12 page, you go down there, and then you will
13 see the Charter Revision Commission. And on
14 the page for the current one, we also have
15 the report from the previous Charter
16 Revision Commission, I believe there is a
17 link to that on there.

18 If you don't see that -- and then, for
19 everyone here, if you need to communicate
20 with us, CRC@COJ.net. If you can't find it,
21 let us know, email there, and we will get it
22 back to you.

23 MS. BROOKS: Do you have any hard
24 copies?

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Do I have any hard

1 copies? The only hard copy I have is the
2 one I printed out myself. I apologize.

3 MS. BROOKS: Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Judge Swanson.

5 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Just real briefly
6 back to recall issue, I think there is a
7 Florida statute that may be on point, and I
8 just reference you to that for your
9 information. It's Florida Statute
10 100.36(1).

11 And so I do think there is a methodology
12 for that that may be in place that would
13 possibly preclude us from looking at it as a
14 Charter issue. I'm not positive about that,
15 but I'm just saying that statute is in
16 place.

17 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: And far be it for
18 me -- okay. I just had word, Legislative
19 Services can get you a hard copy of the
20 previous report. How is that for government
21 in action?

22 MS. BROOKS: Great.

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: As I was saying, far
24 be it for me to ever dispute a judge, but --

25 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: You get paid big

1 money to do that.

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Usually somebody is
3 paying me to say, "You're wrong, Judge."
4 But Article 15 in the Charter does deal with
5 the removal of officers, and there is the
6 process in there for petition or, I believe
7 it even includes action by the Council
8 itself. So we've got that in there. Thank
9 you for your comments.

10 Yes, sir. Yeah, come on up. We've got
11 about 15 more minutes. And then after that
12 you don't have to go home, but you can't
13 stay here.

14 Mr. Seabrooks.

15 MR. SEABROOKS: So I wanted to come and
16 I wanted to speak on the -- I guess I'm
17 supposed to say item E as it pertains to the
18 Duval County School Board --

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Actually, first,
20 your name and address.

21 MR. SEABROOKS: Oh, my name is Winston
22 Seabrooks, and my address is 534 Alder
23 Street, yes, sir.

24 So I wanted to speak on the Duval County
25 School Board title when it pertains to the

1 elected superintendent. And I would just
2 say that I am a student in Duval County
3 Public Schools, and my mother has worked in
4 Duval County Public Schools for over 25
5 years. And I will say that I have watched
6 School Board elections, and I also recently
7 was involved in one.

8 And, as it pertains to an elected
9 superintendent, I would hope that our
10 Charter Review Commission -- I know you guys
11 make recommendations, so you're not to enact
12 any laws. But I hope that everyone is not
13 in support of that elected superintendent.

14 I have seen how people who are not very
15 supporters -- who are not supporters of
16 public schools have recently invested
17 thousands of dollars into school board races
18 to put their people up on the school board.
19 And I would hate for a situation to happen
20 where we get an elected superintendent, who
21 has no background in education, who
22 probably, let's say, is a former city
23 council member and they just want to run for
24 public office again to hold a seat, and they
25 run the school district with a \$1.8 billion

1 budget, that is bigger than what the City
2 has, and they run our district into the
3 ground. And I would hate if that is to
4 happen.

5 Another thing that I want everybody to
6 understand is I attend a school on the north
7 side. I have been attending schools on the
8 north side for a while. And also I have
9 been a student who has attended turnaround
10 schools that have been low performing
11 schools. And, when I was in elementary, I
12 attended North Shore Elementary, and it was
13 one of the most failing elementary schools
14 in the state of Florida.

15 So, as I said before, I would hate for
16 us to put a superintendent in office who has
17 no background in education, and they tear
18 down Ribault and they tear down Raines, not
19 as in tear the buildings down, but put
20 people in the positions who don't even know
21 what they're doing, like our superintendent
22 before our last one.

23 But I hope that our Charter Review
24 Commission is not only not in support of an
25 elected superintendent, I hope that they do

1 what is right by the citizens and understand
2 that most of the citizens are not in support
3 of an elected superintendent. That's why we
4 elect our school board members, because we
5 trust them with appointing a superintendent
6 to the position.

7 So I hope that everyone goes through
8 that thoroughly. I hope you go through that
9 consciously. And, hopefully, as you not
10 being elected officials, that's what I like
11 mostly about you, you are my neighbors, I
12 hope you do what your neighbors want you to
13 do and that is mostly we want you all to
14 support an appointed superintendent instead
15 of a special interest superintendent. Thank
16 you.

17 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you very much.

18 Comments on that? We do have a comment.

19 COMMISSIONER McCOY: Hey, man, what
20 school do you go to?

21 MR. SEABROOKS: Ribault High.

22 COMMISSIONER McCOY: I need you to say
23 it loud and proud, sir.

24 MR. SEABROOKS: Ribault High School.

25 COMMISSIONER McCOY: Never ever just say

1 I go to a school on the north side, always
2 give credit where credit is due.

3 I also want to point out to other people
4 that the young man said that he went to
5 school at a, quote, unquote, failing. That
6 term failing is wrong. And I'm probably
7 going off on a little tangent, but, as you
8 can see, they still produce. So I just want
9 to put that out.

10 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Absolutely.

11 Anyone else? Anyone else like to make a
12 comment?

13 MR. TODD: Do we have to fill it out to
14 come up if we were late?

15 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yeah, you can go
16 ahead and fill one out. We have them over
17 there. You can just --

18 MR. TODD: Can I just do it real quick
19 and then fill it out?

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Just give your name
21 and address.

22 MR. TODD: Mike Todd, 5708 Luella
23 Street, 32207.

24 If we could flip to the two-third tax.
25 Where is it? I saw it a second ago.

1 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Government
2 structure.

3 MR. TODD: I can't find it. Anyway,
4 there is a point in there where it says
5 taxes, and then it says property taxes. So
6 I'm kind of concerned with -- if that has
7 been brought up yet.

8 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I think it was a
9 general statement, make it harder for City
10 Council to raise taxes by mandating
11 two-thirds approval to raise property taxes.
12 That was --

13 MR. TODD: I'm just a little confused.

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: The recommendation,
15 I believe this came up when Representative
16 Fischer was speaking, that the idea was to
17 have it in the Charter that, before the
18 property taxes, millage rate or -- that was
19 a specific one, that it should be a
20 two-thirds vote before you would raise what
21 would be the millage rate for property
22 taxes. I think it was a general sentiment
23 of making it harder for City Council to
24 raise taxes in general.

25 MR. TODD: Okay. And I'm assuming and

1 just from my knowledge, in terms of public
2 comment for City Council meetings, that's up
3 to the City Council to vote on.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: That is a City
5 Council rule.

6 MR. TODD: And then --

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: With regards to the
8 extra. The public comment before voting is
9 required by law.

10 MR. TODD: Wait. Sorry. Say that
11 again.

12 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: You're required by
13 law to have public comment before taking a
14 vote. Am I right, Ms. Johnston?

15 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes, but it doesn't have
16 to be at the same meeting.

17 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: It doesn't have to
18 be at the same meeting. It just has to be
19 before the vote is taken, there has to be a
20 period of public comment.

21 MR. TODD: Because I've been seeing for
22 years the vote and then public comment. I'm
23 just kind of --

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Have you heard where
25 they go -- where they talk about public

1 hearing when they're going to specific
2 bills? And then someone has -- they're
3 looking through there and they're saying "Do
4 we have any cards on this bill," that's the
5 public comment that's required by law is
6 when they're going through and looking at
7 each individual bill, that's that one.

8 The additional public comment that they
9 have is just by Council rule similar to what
10 we have our public comment during our
11 meetings, it's not required, but it's
12 important so we have that.

13 MR. TODD: Okay. And then I do just
14 want to say that making a City Council,
15 like, president an elected position holding
16 office for four years on a term that's
17 staggered with the Mayor, I really don't
18 think people are going to like that.

19 And I know I came late, but I was, like,
20 at work. And I really do think -- and I'm
21 going to be picky here, sorry just wasting
22 time.

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: You're not wasting
24 time.

25 MR. TODD: But I want to go back to what

1 Ken said, the septic tanks issue. There
2 needs to be more awareness here. If this
3 could be edited to septic tanks and actually
4 type in here "promised during consolidation"
5 just so that everybody knows it.

6 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Ms. Knight.

7 VICE CHAIRPERSON KNIGHT: Sir, I have a
8 question for you. Just to clarify, so the
9 first bullet on that topic, the grouping is
10 preserving institutional knowledge of public
11 officials. And you said that the community
12 would not like, the statement, making the
13 Council President an elected position
14 holding office for four years on a term that
15 is staggered with the Mayor's term. Could
16 you explain your comment?

17 MR. TODD: The reason I said that is
18 because --

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Back to the
20 microphone, please.

21 MR. TODD: The reason I said that is
22 because -- and lately I haven't been coming
23 to City Council meetings, but I know that
24 since, what was it, Bowman changed the
25 public comment to the very, very end of the

1 meeting, instead of it used to be sometimes
2 in the middle and then other votes would
3 happen and then we'd have public comment.
4 So, yeah, I mean, when we don't agree with
5 stuff like that, we wouldn't want the
6 president to be for four years, like, that's
7 not -- like --

8 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Mr. Chair.

9 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes, Mr. Griggs.

10 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Okay. I was the
11 one that made that recommendation. And the
12 thought was we were trying to look at ways,
13 oh, just throw stuff against the wall to try
14 to give it -- remove the perception of so
15 much cohesion between the Council President
16 and administration.

17 And what we -- what my thinking was, if
18 you had the Mayor four years here and you
19 had the Council President four years there,
20 they're going in at separate times, and the
21 likelihood of them being on the same page
22 would be less likely than they are, say,
23 now. I'm understanding that overtime you
24 may not have the types of relationships that
25 we have now where the perception is that

1 everybody is on the same page.

2 So what we're -- the thought was -- and
3 I appreciate your comments -- the Council
4 President has all the power. The problem
5 is, by the time the train gets moving, that
6 term, that presidency in one year, is over.
7 Budget review, all that stuff, is one person
8 taking a stab at it for one year, and there
9 is no consistency to it. So that was the
10 thinking behind it, was to try to, you know,
11 bring some type of independence and allow
12 the Council President an opportunity to be
13 able to plan things over a period of time.
14 That was it.

15 But we do appreciate your comments. And
16 these are -- again, these are just things
17 that we were coming up with as presenters
18 came to us. And, hopefully, you know, we
19 get comments like this from the public to
20 help us determine whether or not it ends up
21 being a priority.

22 MR. TODD: I have no idea what this is,
23 and I'm going to look it up, but remove
24 Hospital Authority, what's up with that?

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: That was actually

1 already done by statute, but it's still in
2 the Charter. That's one of the ones I was
3 looking at. So that's it.

4 Okay. We got about enough time for one
5 last comment.

6 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Mr. Chair, while
7 we're waiting for that, can I --

8 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Sure.

9 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: He mentioned
10 Hospital Authority, and I was looking at D,
11 the dedicated funding for the Health
12 Department. I wanted to make sure that we
13 were clear on the concept here. We are
14 really trying to address -- or the thought
15 is to try to address the Statute 154, the
16 State Statute 154, which says that the
17 county is responsible for public health
18 services. That includes indigent care
19 services, which are provided by UF Health.
20 So whatever that -- if this rises up to
21 priority, whatever that funding mechanism
22 is, should include the whole umbrella of
23 funding for indigent care and public health
24 services as it's read in Chapter 154 State
25 Statute.

1 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. So what I'll
2 do is I'll put that as a sub little bubble
3 on there, Florida Statute 154, funding
4 indigent care and public health services.

5 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Mr. Chair.

6 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: As we're working
8 on this, these initiatives, the whole idea
9 of fulfilling the promises of the Charter,
10 to the areas of town that have been left
11 behind, the septic tank issue really is part
12 of that. I'm just -- as we go through
13 these, maybe we should look at them a little
14 bit more in terms of what goes under what
15 major topic. Because I think the topic is
16 Revive Urban Services District, that topic
17 really, I think, is fulfilling the promises
18 of consolidation to all areas of
19 Jacksonville. And then under that are these
20 various sundry different issues that are
21 kind of sprinkled throughout.

22 I mean, I can try and handle that too.
23 But, as I'm looking to it, to me, that seems
24 like an important issue we need to at least
25 consider. And right now it doesn't have any

1 distinction to it.

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I get what you're
3 saying. I tried to put that in there under
4 that because that seemed to be the theme
5 that was coming up on that area of town.

6 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: I understand. And
7 if I were doing this, I would probably
8 really screw it up. I appreciate your
9 effort.

10 For example, septic tanks doesn't go
11 under strategic planning. I mean, strategic
12 planning is a big vision-type thing. And
13 septic tanks is really under more the issue
14 of community, I think. But it doesn't
15 really matter as long as we know what we're
16 doing and get around to it.

17 MR. TODD: It does seem like it would be
18 strategic if you're trying to pacify an area
19 of town that's been left behind by giving
20 them septic tanks.

21 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: So let me get
22 consensus on here. For C, do you want to
23 change that to fulfilling promises of
24 consolidation? Is that -- does that make
25 sense?

1 Ms. Lisska, I see you popping up there.
2 And, by that, I mean lifting your name tag.

3 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: I can't even pull
4 this out, much less pop up.

5 MR. TODD: I do say that because of the
6 50th anniversary of consolidation, a Mayor
7 said on record that the reason why people
8 wanted consolidation is because they didn't
9 want it to turn out to be a black city. So
10 I just want to make sure that's on record as
11 well. And it just --

12 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I don't mean to
13 interrupt you, but what we're trying to get
14 here is so that we can work on our language,
15 but I appreciate very much your comments.

16 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Mr. Chairman, as
17 we've talked about in the full Commission
18 meetings, as this is tonight, there are
19 going to be certain topics that crop up in
20 many of these areas. And I think this is
21 one. I mean, unfilled promises of septic
22 tanks span our town, and just like I think
23 it would span this -- the topics. So I
24 think it's going to be -- I mean, I think
25 it's fine that it remains an Urban Services

1 District, but I think it should also -- for
2 example, you can place it in citywide
3 strategic planning, you can place it
4 in other places, but I think it needs to be
5 in more than one place.

6 And you had encouraged us in our
7 committees to go back and pull what was
8 needed into that committee. It didn't have
9 to already appear on the list. So you did
10 say the committees had that authority.

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes. The
12 subcommittees will be -- I mean, this is not
13 meant to be a limitation of what you can
14 consider under that topic, so just to be
15 clear on that.

16 Mr. Griggs.

17 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Just to be clear,
18 and I want to make sure because, again, this
19 is one of my bright ideas, along with
20 Mr. Denton, this is a priority. And I think
21 it should not be understated that it's a
22 priority. While we know there will be other
23 areas that sort of deserve attention, this
24 area is a priority. And I think that's why
25 the wording has to be as such where it's

1 identified so people know that this is a
2 strategic effort to undue things that have,
3 you know, been neglected, to bring progress
4 to things that have been neglected.

5 And in that work I know that -- I have
6 in my notes from the last meeting that we
7 will be identifying those disparities, to
8 Mr. Covington's point, to identify those
9 areas of disparity, such as septic tanks,
10 sewers, water sewers, that go under an Urban
11 Core Investment Authority, agency, or
12 whatever.

13 And so for my purpose, just for me
14 personally, I don't want it to be clouded
15 that this effort is something that's going
16 to end up being countywide, because the
17 priority should be here.

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: And that's my
19 concern of unfulfilled promises as a
20 category as a whole. My goal was to get
21 these topics some level of detail so that
22 when we are saying, okay, this is a
23 priority, that we know what we're ranking on
24 these priorities. I think that concept of
25 unfulfilled promises in consolidation is

1 something that fills several of these. And
2 I think that there are ways that within the
3 subcommittee that's focused on certain
4 issues, that there might be ways where you
5 can address that broader issue in that topic
6 itself, the citywide strategic planning,
7 government structure, certainly the Urban
8 Services District and the Urban Core
9 Investment Authority that fell under that.
10 Because I believe that's generally the area
11 where the majority of those unfulfilled
12 promises exist.

13 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: And, again, my
14 whole concept on unfulfilled promises is
15 Charter's commitment to the urban core, it's
16 not about all the other things we haven't
17 done, God knows there's a lot of them. That
18 was the idea. And that's why I think it
19 needs to kind of stand alone, as opposed to
20 being piecemeal in other categories, but as
21 long as we know what we're doing.

22 And I want to say this too, because I
23 think I crafted some of this citywide
24 strategic planning, the concept there was
25 for the Charter to have a macro provision

1 regarding strategic planning, not to put in
2 the Charter all these various and sundry
3 things that we think are priorities right
4 now, but to create an entity that would do
5 the strategic planning, and from year to
6 year those things would be in there. And
7 so --

8 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I agree with you
9 with that structure. And that's what I
10 keep, you know, going back, let's create a
11 structure that allows for those policy
12 decisions to come up and be made and
13 implemented. And that's really what -- I
14 agree with you 100 percent on that, of
15 creating that structure and then we let the
16 electeds work out the policies, but at least
17 they have to do it.

18 COMMISSIONER MILLS: And, through the
19 Chair, I just wanted to say I'm glad you
20 cleared that up.

21 And I was listening to Ms. Lisska.
22 Septic tanks are throughout Jacksonville;
23 it's not just one particular side. Maybe
24 one side has been left behind more than
25 others, but they're throughout the City of

1 Jacksonville. As you said, these are just
2 topics, because there is a lot more that
3 will come up under fulfillment of promises
4 since consolidation, and just not septic
5 tanks, there are so many more. So I'm glad
6 you cleared that up.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: And, actually, I
8 just heard on the radio that, I believe,
9 there is some other legislation coming out
10 of Tallahassee that's specifically related
11 to septic tanks statewide and possibly some
12 funding that may be coming out in that with
13 regards to waterways health in there.

14 Anything else from the Commission?
15 Because we are now past time.

16 All right. Well, if not, ladies and
17 gentlemen, thank you. Thank you so much for
18 coming out and spending your evening here.
19 I hope you felt it was worthwhile. I know
20 we certainly do. I think I speak on behalf
21 of all my fellow Commission members that we
22 greatly appreciate your input as we begin to
23 work through these.

24 If you have the opportunity, 9 o'clock,
25 Friday, October 25th, we will be going

1 through and ranking each of these priorities
2 and determining our subcommittees. And you
3 will hear more about that then.

4 So, again, thank you and good night. We
5 are adjourned.

6 (Meeting concluded at 7:07 p.m.)

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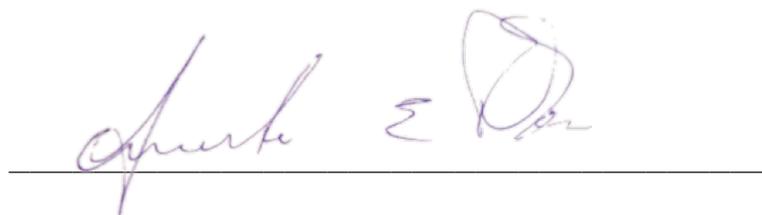
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF DUVAL

I, Amanda E. Robinson, Registered
Professional Reporter, do hereby certify that I
was authorized to and did report the foregoing
proceedings; and that the transcript, pages 1
through 85, is a true record of my stenographic
notes.

DATED this 1st day of November, 2019.



Amanda E. Robinson,
Registered Professional Reporter