



BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON
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OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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MEETING MINUTES

Noticed Public Meeting Hosted by Council Member Brenda Priestly Jackson
District 10 Neighbors Advisory Council
Wednesday, October 2, 2019 6:00 p.m.
Legends Center, 5130 Soutel Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32208

Attendance: Councilwoman Brenda Priestly Jackson, Councilman Samuel Newby, John Pappas, Director Public Works, Darryl Joseph, Director Parks, Recreation and Community Services, Assistant Chief Deloris O'Neal, JSO Zone 5 Commander, Assistant Chief Ellis Burns, JSO, Kendra Mervin, Executive Council Assistant-District 10. All other attendees are listed on the attendance sign-in sheet.

Council Member Brenda Priestly Jackson convened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

CM Priestly Jackson opened the meeting referencing a map of District 10 and notating its range. She explained that the Neighbors Advisory Council (NAC) would serve as an advisory group, recommending strategic goals for the sixteen precincts within District 10. She further explained that a strategic planning process will be utilized to create the goals and vision of the community. Additionally, to ensure that the community's agenda and not her own is followed, the residents would serve as her eyes and ears. Although the district is expansive land-wise and demographically, there will only be one District 10 Neighbors Advisory Council to avoid fragmentation. Meetings will be rotated between the Southwest and Northwest areas of the district.

Darryl Joseph, Director, COJ Parks-Recreation and Community Services, provided an update on projects and initiatives underway or scheduled to occur in District 10. Lonnie Miller Park will have new playground equipment installed by December 2019, as well as new public restrooms. A sculpture called *Standing on the Shoulders of Legends* will also be erected in the park and other features, such as a Food Truck court and a chess program, will be available in the near future. Furthermore, Mr. Joseph shared that the new amphitheater is available for rental by permit from the City and can be used for a variety of performances and events (i.e. concerts, movie nights, and other recreational activities). The Charles Reese Park walkways, fishing pier, and basketball court resurfacing projects are complete and the playground and park lighting will be finished by the end of the year (2019). Andrew Robinson Park is also scheduled to be resurfaced.

John Pappas, Director-Public Works, reported that five sidewalk repairs in District 10 have occurred and his department is in the process of identifying corridors throughout the city that experience constant dumping so that they can receive more frequent attention and clean-up. Attending citizens communicated a number of concerns: trash on the right-of-ways, nuisance properties, and a number of areas experiencing grass, ditch and tree overgrowth. Mr. Pappas stated that his department is now using a plant growth retardant after grass and ditch overgrowth areas are mowed and cleaned. A citizen also expressed that the residents of the district should be informed when property is being sold; referencing a parcel of land on Ribault Scenic Drive that was sold for \$10.00 to the government. Mr. Pappas also took note of two severe nuisance sites: a boarded house on

C-Street (located between 45th and D Streets) that residents refer to as *21 Dump Street* and multiple broken down cars on a lot near Washington Heights that require removal.

Councilwoman Priestly Jackson asked the residents to provide feedback on what the focus areas should be in District 10 regarding education, economic opportunities, and quality of life.

Education: A college and career fair will be organized for District 10. During the event, citizens will learn about certification programs, grants and employment opportunities in District 10. CM Priestly Jackson is also collaborating with CM Randy White to partner with skilled labor unions with the intent of establishing trade/skilled labor programs at Frank H. Peterson High School. Similar to Early College, these programs would begin in the 11th grade. It was suggested to create more recreational programs for youth in District 10 and to teach youth how to invest and save money.

Economic Opportunities: It was mentioned that efforts should be made to attract businesses to District 10 that are needed and can enhance quality of life.

Quality of Life: Residents expressed a great deal of concern that there were not enough quality grocery stores in District 10. CM Priestly Jackson explained that District 10 does not meet the criteria to be considered a food desert, but stated that the standards for grocers in the area should be the same throughout the city. She asked those who would like to serve on the District 10 Neighbors Advisory Council to map out areas that can benefit from additional grocery stores and the matter would be further discussed during the strategic planning process. It was also mentioned that the district needs a neighborhood pharmacy.

CM Priestly Jackson invited CM Samuel Newby-At-Large Group 5, to speak. He reported that all appointed members of the *Taskforce on Safety & Crime Reduction* are now seated. The taskforce is represented by a diverse group of 28 individuals. A resident interjected and conveyed that the city should be more walkable and conducive to bike riding; with shops and quality restaurants like those in other areas, such as Riverside and San Marco. CM Newby stated that he recently proposed legislation that addresses that issue.

CM Priestly Jackson concluded by affirming that she is fighting for District 10's fair share of tax dollars to address the issues and concerns of the district.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:36 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Kendra Mervin, Executive Council Assistant – District 10, 904-255-5146, mervink@coj.net. The following items were submitted for public record and can be accessed by contacting the Legislative Services Division: meeting notices, meeting agenda, minutes, attendance sheets, handouts (no audio recording).

BPJ/km

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MEETING MINUTES

**Noticed Public Meeting Hosted by Council Member Brenda Priestly Jackson
District 10 Neighbors Advisory Council**

Wednesday, September 18, 2019 6:00 p.m.

Webb Wesconnett Regional Library, 6887 103rd Street, Jacksonville, FL 32210

Attendance: Councilwoman Brenda Priestly Jackson, Lynne Baldwin, Jacksonville Public Libraries West Region Manager, Kendra Mervin, District 10 Executive Council Assistant. All other attendees are listed on the attendance sign-in sheet.

Council Member Brenda Priestly Jackson convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

CM Priestly Jackson opened the meeting with introductions; District 10 Office - Councilwoman Priestly Jackson and ECA Kendra Mervin introduced themselves, as well as all meeting attendees. She explained that the Neighbors Advisory Council (NAC) would serve as an advisory group, recommending strategic goals for District 10. Education, Economic Opportunities, and Quality of Life were identified as the top priorities and residents were asked to make additional suggestions that would be incorporated into the District 10 four-year strategic plan.

Education: It was suggested that more vocational/trade training programs were needed that would lead to sustainable high skill-high wage employment opportunities. Additionally, the libraries in District 10 could be utilized to host certification, as well as GED courses. Webb Wesconnett could serve as a hub for the Southwest area of the district. It was also recommended to create partnerships with the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office to establish high school training/prep academies in local high schools.

Economic Opportunities: Having a team that would identify businesses relocating to District 10, such as Crystal River Air Conditioning Company, and then establishing partnerships with them was proposed. CM Priestly Jackson also stated that she wants the District 10 NAC to focus on a quality summer program that integrates youth into career paths; beginning with young, socio-economically challenged males. There would be specific criteria. It was noted that UPS is also hiring and research should be done regarding business opportunities coming to the Cecil Commerce area.

Quality of Life: Serious concerns were raised about Land Use & Zoning projects, poor street lighting, septic tanks and park and road maintenance within the district. The sale of the Twin Hills Civic Center in Cedar Hills and the rundown condition of the park there, along with the poor construction of the amphitheater at the Legends Center were items of great discussion. Rev. Willie Crosby, Jr. elaborated about the poorly constructed, inferior quality homes (some with septic systems) in the Sweetwater area and recommended a Land Use & Zoning arm of the District 10 NAC. Mr. James Morton expressed that addressing the sewage/septic systems in the District should be a priority and that all living within the City limits should be connected to the City's water/sewage.

Closing down gaming arcades was also a topic of discussion. CM Priestly Jackson asked everyone to write down the addresses of severe problem areas (i.e. roads, detrimental rezoning projects, etc...) and bring reports to the next meeting.

CM Priestly Jackson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and shared that members of the District 10 NAC will participate in three two-hour strategic planning sessions. She also stated that she is in the process of preparing legislation through a floor amendment to address Council discretionary funds. Currently, all discretionary funds allocated to District 10 were expended prior to her taking office. Finally, CM Priestly Jackson affirmed that she has asked for the results of the study reflecting the unfulfilled promises of the City of Jacksonville consolidation.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:35 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Kendra Mervin, Executive Council Assistant to Council Member Brenda Priestly Jackson. The following items were submitted for public record and can be accessed by contacting the Legislative Services Division: meeting notices, meeting agenda, minutes, attendance sheets, handouts (no audio recording).