

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

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4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL

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**NEIGHBORHOODS, COMMUNITY SERVICES, PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**FOOD DESERTS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Conference Room A, 4th floor, City Hall**

**February 10, 2020**

**2:00 p.m.**

**In attendance:** CM Newby (Chair), CM Gaffney, CM Morgan, CM White and CM Pittman

**Also**: Paige Johnston – Office of General Counsel; Richard Distel– Council Research Division; Sharonda Davis – Legislative Services Division

**Meeting Convened**: 2:00 p.m.

CM Newby called the meeting to order.

Greg Tison, General Manager of the Jacksonville Farmers Market, gave the history of the market and said that they are looking to bring in more vendors, but there are no official plans just yet. CM Newby suggested that the ReadiRide program from JTA could be used to transport people to the farmers market for fresh food. Mr. Tison said that the average cost for a vendor is $100 to $600 based on their space. CM Newby brought up possible funding for community gardens and CM Morgan highlighted work that is being done in her district through community gardens.

Mrs. Paulette Turner asked zoning questions regarding the property she is looking to turn into the Pearce St. Market. Paige Johnston, Office of General Counsel, suggested reaching out to Bill Killingsworth, Director of Planning and Development, about the zoning restrictions and so she can have clarity on the best steps moving forward.

CM Gaffney gave an update on the opening of Winn-Dixie at the Gateway Town Center. The soft opening will be Wednesday the February 12th at 8:00 am. CM Morgan brought up the recent closings of Earth Fare, Lucky’s Market and Save-a-Lot. She brought up the blight that could be caused from these closings and the importance of directing funding on the most beneficial projects for the city of Jacksonville. CM Pittman emphasized the value of mom and pop stores because they have a deeper connection with the community they serve. CM Newby said he was going to go to Atlanta on March 21st to look at the Sweet Auburn Market. CM Morgan asked CM Newby to make sure to look at what the price points are in the Sweet Auburn Market and if they are something that could work in a market built in the Northwest area of Jacksonville.

CM Newby adjourned the meeting.

**Meeting adjourned:** 2:47 p.m.

Minutes: Richard Distel, Council Research Division

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