

**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 24, 2020**

**2:00 p.m.**

**In attendance:** CM Newby (Chair), CM Gaffney, CM Morgan, 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.

Reverend Mattie Riley-Hayes detailed the Planet Watch neighborhood watch and community garden at the Greater New Hope A.M.E. Church. The program had a $5,000 budget last year from private investors and they are looking to have a $25,000 budget for next year with the help of City funding directed towards the project. A lot of the funding would go towards youth and veterans to teach others and maintain the community garden. The market was only open in the summer and the church is aiming to have it become a year-round market. CM Gaffney asked what the best way to fund these small markets that have innovative ideas to feed the community would be.

Betty Burney from the I’m A Star Foundation detailed the Rosa Parks Produce Market. They have done food giveaways as well as selling food in the community. The foundation will be seeking $30,000 to retrofit a vehicle provided by JTA in order to do cooking demonstrations, sell and provide free food giveaways. The Rosa Parks Produce Market will have its name changed to the James Weldon Johnson STAR Produce Market. Kirk Wendland, Office of Economic Development, suggested getting the Health Department in for these meetings because they can help with the goals of improving the nutrition and health of the community. CM Newby asked what waivers would be needed for the foundation to obtained City grant dollars. Mr. Wendland said he would look over the guidelines with Paige Johnston, Office of General Counsel.

CM Gaffney gave an update on the Winn-Dixie in the Gateway Town Center. The management at Winn-Dixie said it was a much better first week then they had expected, and the grocery store had been able to hire a lot of people in the community.

Cantrece Jones, JTA, went over the marketing that is being done for the “Readiride” program. Ms. Jones reported that the program has given rides to 40 people a week since it began.

CM Newby let the subcommittee know that he has a trip planned for March 20th to see the Sweet Auburn Market in Atlanta, Georgia so he can investigate how a similar market could be created in the Northwest side of Jacksonville.

CM Newby set the next meeting date for March 9th at 2:00 pm and then adjourned the meeting.

**Meeting adjourned:** 2:54 p.m.

Minutes: Richard Distel, Council Research Division

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