# MEETING MINUTES

**City Council Member to Member, Duval Delegation and DCSB**

**Hosted by Council Member Brenda Priestly Jackson**

Zoom Virtual Meeting

April 24, 2020

2:30 P.M.

**Location**: Remote meeting via Zoom

**In attendance:** Council Members Scott Wilson (President), Priestly Jackson, Ju’Coby Pittman, Garrett Dennis, Joyce Morgan, Al Ferraro, Sam Newby, Michael Boylan, Ron Salem, Danny Becton, Tommy Hazouri,

**Also:** Wyman R. Duggan – Florida State Representative, Tiffany Vause – Communications Director of Department of Economic Opportunity; District 15; Kimberly Daniels – Florida State Representative, District 14; Tracie Davis – State Representative, District 13; Audrey Gibson – Florida State Senator, District 6; Cord Byrd – Florida State Representative, District 11; Clay Yarborough – Florida State Representative, District 12; Dr. Diana L. Greene – Superintendent of Duval County Public Schools; Warren A. Jones – Duval County School Board Chairman; Dee Alexander – Legislative Assistant for Senator Aaron Bean – Florida State Senator, District 4; other Council Staff, Assistants, Duval Delegation Members and Duval County School Board Members.

**Meeting Convened:** 2:32 p.m.

Council Member Priestly Jackson opened the meeting with greetings and announced the purpose of the meeting is to address the reemployment application process for the residents of Jacksonville /Duval County. Elected officials followed with personal introductions.

Council President Scott Wilson thanked CM Priestly Jackson for her leadership on the issue. He has heard from many constituents and announced the Special Council Meeting on Monday, April 27, 2020 to discuss the Mayors Relief Package.

Rep. Wyman Duggan announced his communication with CM Priestly Jackson and his contact with the Governors Legislative Affairs Director Stephanie Kopelousos. He introduced Tiffany Vause to provide a status report and information tailored specific to the issues raised by CM Priestly Jackson.

Tiffany Vause communicated progress is being made with the reemployment assistance program. Between the dates of March 15, 2020 to March 23, 2020, more than 1.8 million applications have been received and that number may include duplicates. There have been 701,000 claims filed, of those filed 699,941 have been verified, 208,935 have been processed and more than 153,000 individuals have been paid, which is 20%. While COVID-19 is being mitigated, Governor DeSantis has waived the following criteria for citizens, work search and work registration requirement, waiting week and the requirement to certify weeks. The site to apply for benefits is [www.floridajobs.org](http://www.floridajobs.org). Citizens will be able to contact an elected official or other staff to provide their personal data to enter in the Portal for Initial Application instead of the Connect System.

Rep. Kimberly Daniels mentioned she has been in contact with Nicolas Alvarez with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and after hearing Tiffany Vause explain the process and status update, she is confident, that even with the fast pace movement of the process, the constituents of Duval county will receive reemployment assistance. She is honored to be a part of the team and thinks it would be a good idea to put together an FAQ to simply question citizens may have.

Sen. Audrey Gibson stated she was familiar with the details shared by Tiffany Vause. She participated in a walk-through of the entire process with the Department of Economic Opportunity. Sen. Gibson shared additional eligibility requirements about the different programs citizens are eligible for. Sen. Gibson also mentioned during her visit with the DEO, she was informed Duval County would be given priority to speed up the application process.

Warren Jones advised that DCSB employees are still working, however some contract support workers which includes bus operators, food preparation workers and janitors will need to apply for reemployment services.

Dr. Diana Greene declared that if additional volunteers are needed to assist with the process the school district has a secretary force of volunteers to help.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 3:34 p.m.

**Minutes:** Completed by Kristen Hodges, District 10 ECA, on Thursday, March 30, 2020

***The written minutes for this meeting are only an overview of what was discussed. For verbatim comments from this meeting, please listen to audio recording posted on COJ’s website at City Council Meetings Online.***