

City of Jacksonville

*1st Floor - Council Chamber
117 W. Duval Street*



Meeting Minutes Organizational Meeting

Monday, June 22, 2020

1:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

Special Committee on Social Justice and Community Investment

*CM Matt Carlucci, Co-Chair
CM Brenda Priestly Jackson, Co-Chair*

Committee Members

Matt Carlucci - Co-Chair

Brenda Priestly Jackson - Co-Chair

Ron Salem

Michael Boylan

Randy White

Randy DeFoor

Sam Newby

Also: Council Members Hazouri, Morgan, Pittman, Freeman, Wilson, White and Dennis

Meeting Convened: 1:30 pm

Meeting Adjourned: 2:46 pm

- I. **Introductions, Overview & Charges**
 - a. **City Council President-Designate Tommy Hazouri (At-Large, Group 3)**
 - b. **CM Matt Carlucci (Co-Chair SJCIC) (At-Large, Group 4) and CM Brenda Priestly Jackson (Co-Chair SJCIC) (District 10)**
 - c. **SJCIC Members**
 - i. **City Council Vice-President-Designate Sam Newby (At-Large, Group 5)**
 - ii. **CM Randy DeFoor (District 14)**
 - iii. **CM Michael Boylan (District 6)**
 - iv. **CM Randy White (District 12)**
 - v. **CM Ron Salem (At-Large, Group 2)**
 - d. **Other City Council Members**

Committee Co-Chairs Matt Carlucci and Brenda Priestly Jackson welcomed the group and called for council member attendance.

CP designate Hazouri also welcomed the members, and reviewed the committee's mission. This committee was established to serve as a clearinghouse for all ideas, policies and legislation pertaining to three main areas: (i) social injustices; (ii) law enforcement; and (iii) economic development (which encompasses employment, education and infrastructure issues). The goal of the committee is to further equal access and opportunity for all citizens of Jacksonville and to strive to establish programs and policies which serve to eradicate systemic bias as well as honor the unfulfilled promises of consolidation. CP-d Hazouri spoke of his enthusiasm to make things better for Jacksonville, his readiness to 'walk the walk' and make history.

CM Carlucci thanked the members, and talked about this point in history as a tipping point and his desire to make the city better. CM Carlucci noted that this is an action committee which may focus on the neighborhood bill of rights, the budget and the CIP to effectuate social justice. CM Priestly Jackson reviewed the committee's charge, and talked about the composition of the membership. This committee is comprised of the chairs from council standing committees. CM Priestly Jackson encouraged the members to discuss priorities with their standing committees and report back.

CM Newby spoke about the importance of this committee, and the chance to take a hard look at what is wrong in the city. CM Newby said that if someone in Jacksonville isn't safe, no one Jacksonville is safe. CM DeFoor said this could be a legacy committee and praised the courage displayed by CP-d Hazouri in creating it. CM Boylan spoke about the breadth of social injustice as a focus, the need to consider systemic racism, and the difficulty of culture change. CM Boylan also noted the need to keep the public informed of the committee's work and include the input from all generations, from young to old. CM White said that Jacksonville is a big city, with problems in all the districts, and emphasized the urgency to take action. CM Salem concurred, saying he too is man of action.

CMs Pittman, Morgan, and Freeman expressed their support for the committee and for CP-d Hazouri.

II. Areas of Concern and Focus for the SJCIC

- a. Social Injustice**
- b. Law Enforcement**
- c. Economic Development**
 - i. Infrastructure**
 - ii. Jobs**
 - iii. Education**

The group discussed the focus for the committee, as the scope is broad. The intent is to look at three main areas: (i) social injustices; (ii) law enforcement; and (iii) economic development (which encompasses employment, education and infrastructure issues). CP-d Hazouri talked about law enforcement transparency, the upcoming budget process and the upcoming referendum for a sales tax for school infrastructure.

CM Salem talked about what social injustice is to him, which was unfairness and discrimination. CM Salem noted that it is hard to change hearts and minds, and encouraged working with the Sheriff and SAO on body camera transparency, and to focus on police training.

CM Newby talked about how some neighborhoods in the city are safe and some are not, and about the decline of his childhood neighborhood.

CM DeFoor spoke about law enforcement as a part of the City budget, with the goal of crime reduction that should perhaps have performance funding for like hospitals and schools. CM DeFoor mentioned importance of literacy programs and KHA, and how there may be a way to tie education programs to housing somehow.

CM White talked about the impact of blight on a neighborhood, and how if you look good you feel good. CM Newby said it is time for tough conversations about law enforcement and race.

CM Priestly Jackson asked all members to define prioritize 3 committee charge issues, noting that to her infrastructure is key economic development. She also asked the members to share any relevant reports or studies with the group, to be posted on the committee webpage as references. CM Boylan talked about using economic mobility as a metric for social justice reform over time.

CM Dennis shared that he is very excited about the committee, but noted that with a clearinghouse format the committee could hold up or delay the bill process. CMs Priestly Jackson and Hazouri assured him that the intent is to stream-line the legislative process, not create an extra layer of bureaucracy.

III. Organizational Structure and Meeting Dates

CM Carlucci discussed future meeting dates and suggested that they meet on council week in order to look at bills prior to standing committee readings to make recommendations. CM Priestly Jackson conferred with staff and said that the committee will meet on Mondays, beginning on July 27, 2020, every two weeks at first with flexibility around the budget hearing calendar. CM White had to depart for another meeting. CMs Salem and Newby said yes to the Monday council week meeting time.

IV. Miscellaneous Concerns and Next Steps

CM DeFoor recommended the book "The Seamless City: A Conservative Mayor's Approach to Urban Revitalization that Can Work Anywhere", by former St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker, who focused on pride within neighborhoods. CM Carlucci recommended the book "Quiet Revolution", by Chris Hand.

CM Priestly Jackson asked the group to consider the focuses for subcommittees and said she would email the members a meeting schedule.

With no further business, CM Priestly Jackson adjourned the meeting at 2:46 pm.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted 6.26.2020 5:00 pm