

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RESILIENCY**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, PROTECTION OF LOCAL NEIGHBORHOODS**

**AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**Virtual meeting via Zoom – no physical location**

**August 5, 2020**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Location:** Virtual meeting via Zoom – no physical location

**In attendance:** Subcommittee Members Joyce Morgan (Chair), Michael Boylan (Vice Chair), Michael Bonts, John Burr, Josh Gellers, Ashantae Green, Barbara Gubbin, Bill Hoff, Kelly Rich, John Sapora, Alan Zube

**Also**: Council Member Randy DeFoor; Resiliency Committee members Mark Middlebrook, Amanda Polematidis, Leslie Pierpont; Jeff Clements, Yvonne Mitchell – Council Research Division; Steve Cassada, Eric Grantham and Melanie Wilkes – Council Support Services; Susan Stewart – Jaxport; Susan Kelly, Kristen Reed – Planning and Development Department; Susan Grandin – Office of General Counsel; Sean Lahav – Northeast Florida Regional Council

**Meeting Convened**: 2:02 p.m.

Chairwoman Morgan convened the meeting and welcomed the subcommittee attendees. A roll call was taken and a quorum was present. Ms. Morgan asked Yvonne Mitchell of the Council Research Division to explain how the process of sending meeting participants to the 3 working group breakout sessions from the committee’s Zoom meeting.

Council Member DeFoor gave a recap of that morning’s Infrastructure Subcommittee meeting and said that the subcommittee asked Public Works Director John Pappas to develop a list of CIP projects that, if funding was no object, would have the greatest impact on communities and neighborhoods for discussion at the next meeting. She said the Education Subcommittee will have a tremendous role to play in getting the word out to the citizens about the work of the Special Committee and its recommendations.

Chairwoman Morgan referenced a document sent out by email to the members that contains a number of definitions of the term “resilience” for the group’s consideration. Josh Gellers advocated for the East Central Florida Regional Resiliency Action Plan definition that has a number of useful key words. Barbara Gubbin said the definition will depend on the context and whether the Special Committee is dealing only with storms and climate or also with a wider array of man-made disasters and challenges. John Sapora recommends the Urban Land Institute’s definition which includes many of the same keywords as the ECFRPC definition. Sean Lahav said the ULI definition was the result of a nationwide review of definitions and is clear, concise and of appropriate scope. Ashantae Green said the discussion in the other subcommittees has been concentrating mostly on stormwater, hurricanes and sea level rise issues, and not on other types of community equity issues. Ms. Morgan suggested that the full Special Committee take up the topic at a future meeting and gain some consensus about the proper scope of the term “resilience”. Council Member DeFoor noted that the City Council has a Special Committee on Social Justice and Equity that is dealing with a number of societal issues, and she recommended that this committee deal more with natural conditions and dangers such as storms, sea level rise, etc. Sean Lahav said that many jurisdictions start off with a relatively narrow definition of resilience focused on natural challenges and then gradually (over a period of years) expand to include other types of threats and problems. Ms. Morgan hoped that the Special Committee could arrive at a definition sooner rather than later so that Chairwoman DeFoor has some defined talking points as she begins talking to the media to begin publicizing the work of the committee. Council Member Boylan recommended that a timeline be developed for how the City could leverage its initial resilience efforts to make substantial improvements over the course of the next 5 to 10 years. Staff was asked to send out the three definitions that seem to have garnered the most support thus far to the full Special Committee.

At 2:34 the subcommittee split up into 3 working groups meeting in separate Zoom chat rooms. When the working groups reassembled at 3:05 they reported on their discussions.

John Sapora of the Community Assets working group said their task is about developing a method of prioritizing what is most important by focusing on how many people are impacted by a condition and for how long it has been recognized as a problem. Community leaders should have input into the process to broaden the perspective beyond that of just City employees and elected officials.

Michael Boylan of the Editorial/Reports working group said they talked about developing a vehicle to communicate what is happening on a weekly basis through the coj.net web site and the media. Relevancy to citizens is based on what is locally impactful – what happens to me and my neighborhood? They plan to work with City Council members via town hall meetings and the like to reach the public. The focus should be on both short-term and long-term actions, so information being publicized should mention the root causes of current issues and the long-term solutions.

Ashantae Green of the Media/Community Outreach working group said her group talked about their resources and group talents. A framework will need to be developed for how to disseminate information. Publicizing the work of the Special Committee and disseminating the definition of “resilience” will be a first step. Susan Grandin noted that the work group and committee are bound by the Government in the Sunshine Law and need to be cognizant of how that impacts on their work (i.e. public records retention). It will be important that the information being disseminated is readily accessible and easily understandable by the general public. Decisions will need to be made on who controls the dissemination of the information (who has authority to post to social media, etc.).

Chairwoman Morgan said she needs to bring in City resource people at the next meeting to speak to the committee about how media relations work in the Sunshine Law context. Ms. Morgan said that she only uses her social media for one-way communication – sending information out, but not engaging in two-way discussion.

Public Comment

None

Next meeting: August 27, 11:00 a.m.; City resource people discussing media public information and media relations

Council Member Boylan said the work of the Special Committee, subcommittees and working groups is sprawling and complex, and urged the committee members to not be discouraged if it appears at first that not much is happening. Progress is definitely being.

**Meeting adjourned:** 3:23 p.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

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