

City of Jacksonville

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



Meeting Minutes - Amended

Monday, August 10, 2020

11:30 AM

Virtual Meeting

Special Committee on Social Justice and Community Investment

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

Meeting Convened: 11:35 am

Meeting Adjourned: 1:07 pm

Attendance

Committee Members:

Brenda Priestly Jackson - Co-Chair

Matt Carlucci - Co-Chair

Michael Boylan

Randy DeFoor

Sam Newby (Excused)

Ron Salem

Randy White

Also: CMs Gaffney, Ferraro, Morgan, Freeman, and Dennis

I. Introductions

Chairwoman Priestly Jackson welcomed the group and called for introductions. There were six of seven committee members present, which is a quorum.

- II. Council Members' Priorities
 - a. Social Injustice (8 CMs)
 - b. Law Enforcement (4 CMs)
 - c. Economic Development
 - i. Infrastructure (8 CMs)
 - ii. Jobs (2 CMs)
 - iii. Education (2 CMs)

CM Priestly Jackson opened the discussion for committee members priorities, which had been previously submitted and then grouped by frequency: Social Injustice (8 CMs); Law Enforcement (4 CMs); Economic Development -Infrastructure (8 CMs) -Jobs (2 CMs) -Education (2 CMs)

CM Carlucci noted that more priorities may arise as the committee proceeds with its work. He also mentioned the community's desire to see action taken on JSO body camera policies.

CM Salem spoke about "attack" items, on which the committee can take actionable steps, such as mental health care in the jail, body camera policies and promoting the sales tax referendum for schools.

CM DeFoor agreed with the need for action steps, and reiterated her priority of improving the quality of life for every neighborhood in the city- with public art, blight removal, crime prevention instead of reaction, and infrastructure improvements. She also mentioned inviting the artist who paints murals throughout Jacksonville to come to a committee meeting.

CM Priestly Jackson said that committee's intent is not to de-fund law enforcement but perhaps reallocate funding in other ways. CM Salem noted that council can not dictate JSO body camera policy through legislation, but could work to influence it to meet community demand. CM Priestly Jackson requested that CM Salem meet with the Sheriff, Public Defender and State Attorney to discuss the issue further.

CM Salem mentioned that he is working on legislation regarding the process for re-naming parks and other places named after individuals to increase public input, as the issue has been relevant and controversial as of late.

CM DeFoor mentioned housing, as related to social justice. CM White spoke about clean neighborhoods, blight and dilapidated housing, and said he will meet with the City's Fight Blight Director, Denise Lee about clean-up initiatives, as well as Michael Chao, Chief of Municipal Code Compliance to discuss the removal/demolition process.

CM Boylan talked about his priorities, looking at disparities in out of school suspensions in schools and encouraging participation in the census. He requested a presentation from the administration about the census at an upcoming meeting.

CM Gaffney expressed his support for the committee's goals and offered to help in any way. CM Gaffney then suggested an plan by which unused funds from the JIA CRA

could be conveyed to general fund to go towards projects highlighted by the committee. He noted that this would help his district, and all of the city. Phillip Peterson, Council Auditor's Office, said that it could be possible, and that ordinances could be amended to designate that funds do not lapse. Peggy Sidman, Office of General Counsel, said that CRA spending is approved by the CRA Board, which is the full council.

CM DeFoor asked if CRA monies could be restricted after sunseting in 2023, to be saved for certain projects not in the CIP. She will dig further into this option.

CM Boylan talked about the possibility of a council resolution in support for Medicare for All, in order to provide equal access to health care. CM Boylan noted that public opinion supports this policy, that the US is the only industrialized country that ties health care to employment and that the costs for insurance and care are untenable for many people. CM Salem said that a local approach may be more effective, such as funding for more community and mobile clinics. CM Carlucci agreed, and added that there could be more marketing of existing services to increase awareness.

III. Proposed Legislation Discussion

- CM Boylan discussion on Medicare

- CM Carlucci discussion on renaming school after Earl Johnson, Jr. and potential CIP bill

- CM Priestly Jackson legislation on infrastructure funding and a special taxing district to fund children's services

- Other legislative concerns of CMs

CM Carlucci talked about his support for renaming one of the Duval Public Schools after Earl Johnson. CM Priestly Jackson said that the choice is up to the school board, and that council should not interfere.

CM Salem said that he is working on legislation to remove the requirement that to have something named after someone they must be dead. CM DeFoor expressed her support to celebrate Jacksonville's great citizenry. CM White expressed his caution to rename places after different individuals who ten years from now people may not like for some reason. CM Carlucci said he will defer action on this issue right now as it was not unanimous among the committee members.

CM Carlucci spoke about his proposed bill to set a 33 percent target for CIP spending within the pre-consolidation boundary map. CM Carlucci said that through research he found a better set of boundaries than those he shared at the last meeting.

CM Dennis asked if his bills would be discussed, but those were not included on the agenda so the members were not prepared to review them at this meeting.

IV. Miscellaneous Concerns and Next Steps

CM Priestly Jackson told the members that if they have any relevant research studies to share, that they may send those as one way communications to her ECA or to council staff. Those studies will be collected and posted as references on the committee webpage. The same protocol may be used to share bills to be reviewed prior to the next meeting.

CM Priestly Jackson said that she will meet with John Pappas, Public Works, and some JEA folks to discuss and assess infrastructure needs city-wide, and that she will be doing further research into the creation of a special taxing district to fund children's services.

V. Public Comments (as time permits)

One member of the public spoke about the need for a health care special taxing district; one spoke about City leadership and structural racism.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research
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