

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 425

4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

904-255-5137

**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RESILIENCY**

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

**AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

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

**August 27, 2020**

**11:00 a.m.**

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

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

**Also**: Council Member Randy DeFoor; Resiliency Committee subject matter experts Mark Middlebrook, Joshua Rosenberg; Jeff Clements, Yvonne Mitchell – Council Research Division; Cheryl Brown – Council Secretary/Director; Steve Cassada, Eric Grantham and Melanie Wilkes – Council Support Services; Susan Stewart – Jaxport; Melissa Long – Neighborhoods Department; Susan Kelly, Kristen Reed – Planning and Development Department; Susan Grandin and Kealey West– Office of General Counsel; Beth Payne and Sean Lahav – Northeast Florida Regional Council; Carla Miller – Ethics Officer

**Meeting Convened**: 11:02 a.m.

Chairwoman Morgan convened the meeting and welcomed the subcommittee attendees. A roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Susan Grandin of the Office of General Counsel discussed how the Government in the Sunshine Law applies to the subcommittees of the Special Committee on Resiliency and announced that henceforth the subcommittees will be composed of just the City Council members of the Special Committee. The remaining citizen members will be listed as non-voting, subject matter experts who can participate fully in discussions at the subcommittees but can also freely interact with one another outside of the subcommittee meetings because they will not be covered by the Sunshine Law’s open meeting restrictions. City Ethics Officer Carla Miller said that the non-voting subject matter experts will not be required to participate in the City’s board and commission ethics training program because they will not be official subcommittee members.

Ashantae Green asked how this new system will impact on her working group that was planning to do social media. Ms. Grandin said that the Special Committee’s official web page will be housed on the City’s servers and additions to that page would need to be approved by the City. The citizen subject matter experts can publicize that site and link to it on their own social media so that the public can be aware of what is being discussed. Chairwoman Morgan asked for clarification of how the subcommittee would take official action (vote of the council members) and whether the citizen members could be unofficially polled on the topic at hand (they can). Ms. Miller cautioned that if the subcommittee directs a citizen member to take some action on its behalf, that citizen then becomes an agent of the government and would therefore be subject to Sunshine Law regulations.

Northeast Florida Regional Council resources

Beth Payne, CEO of the NEFRC, said the Council is happy to share its resources with the City and the Special Committee. Sean Lahav, Resiliency Coordinator for the Regional Council, made a presentation on the Council’s community engagement resources. The NEFRC’s 2013 regional resiliency report was one of the first resilience efforts in the Northeast Florida area and was a multi-faceted effort involving the public and private sectors. The Council received federal funding for an education and outreach effort which includes public workshops, guest speakers, databases and planning tools. The intent is to make complex issues easier to understand and to make information relevant to individual citizens at the neighborhood level. The workshops are intended to be both educational (providing information to the public) and interactive (receiving information from the public to inform public action). Public workshops can be conducted completely in a virtual setting during the current COVID-19 situation.

Mr. Lahav announced that the September meeting of the full Resiliency Committee meeting will feature presentations by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and The Nature Conservancy on green infrastructure. NEFRC partnered with the City’s Environmental Protection Board and WJCT’s Adapt podcast initiative to host a 2 hour online environmental education event in October to replace the canceled EPB Environmental Summit. Council Member Boylan talked about the necessity to capture and synthesize all of the discussions taking place and the many information resources being shared and shape it into something easily shared and easily digested by the community. There is a great deal of useful information on the Resiliency Committee web page, but it’s not integrated or explained in any way. Sean Lahav offered to develop newsletters that consolidate and expand upon the minutes of the meetings and add explanatory photos, links to further information, etc. Ashantae Green praised the work the NEFRC has already done and hopes that it could be made even more social media-friendly and intentionally aimed at a wide variety of communities.

Barbara Gubbin said that the vast majority of people are not interested in reading voluminous technical reports (although some certainly are interested in that) but would be interested in reading short, attractive, informative pieces. She thinks a brief “elevator speech” message summarizing the key resilience issues should be developed so that it could be repeated anywhere and everywhere in all types of public forums. A consistent message has to be repeated over and over to really be effective. Council Member Boylan recommended that the subcommittee talk to Brendan Rivers at WJCT and others who are active in the resilience area about ways to share their platforms. Ashantae Green proposed that the City’s resilience web site link to the many other resource web sites already available, especially the NEFRC site that is very comprehensive. Chairwoman Morgan asked that for the next meeting the three working groups look at the City’s resilience-related web sites and propose suggestions for improvements in readability and easy information access. John Burr said that since Jacksonville has a huge amount of water frontage on the ocean, St. Johns River and numerous tributaries, so the City is extremely vulnerable to sea level rise and therefore needs to grab the public’s attention and educate them on the issues.

Chairwoman Morgan asked the subcommittee what basic message they want conveyed to the Special Committee meeting tomorrow. Boylan said that the committee is synthesizing the work of the 3 subcommittees into an easily digestible form. John Sapora said that the full committee needs to conclude the earlier discussions and arrive at a final definition of “resilience” for everyone to work with. John Burr echoed that desire for a fixed definition for the group’s working purposes. Joey McKinnon advocated for a definition that combines a degree of specificity with the ability to be adaptive to changing circumstances. Mr. Sapora questioned the need for working group breakout sessions going forward, feeling that the group could probably accomplish its purpose without that. Susan Grandin cautioned against using the term “working group” in relation to the breakout session because that gets back to the Sunshine Law implications. Carla Miller said if the subcommittee assigns tasks to citizen subject matter experts, those volunteers become an arm of the subcommittee and therefore fall under Sunshine Law regulations.

Ms. DeFoor announced that the agenda for tomorrow’s 2 p.m. full committee meeting includes a presentation by Jim Murrell, the Chief Resiliency Officer of Miami-Dade County.

**Meeting adjourned:** 12:20 p.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

[jeffc@coj.net](mailto:jeffc@coj.net) 904-255-5137

8.27.20 Posted 2:30 p.m.