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| **OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL** |
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**Meeting Minutes**

**Council Member Garrett Dennis**

**Meeting Date:** September 21, 2020

**Topic:** JSO Budget

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

**In Attendance:** Council Member Garrett Dennis, Council Member Leanna Cumber, Council Member Randy White, Council Member Joyce Morgan, Council Member Matt Carlucci, Council Auditor Kim Taylor

*\*Please see video recording for a complete list of attendees*

**Meeting Convened:** 10:30 a.m.

Council Member Garrett Dennis called the meeting to order and explained the purpose of the meeting was to discuss an amendment to the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office budget. He emphasized the amendment does not defund the police. CM Dennis said every citizen has an expectation to receive services when they dial 911 and defunding the police would not allow citizens to receive those services. He said his amendment is about accountability, transparency and communication to the council and community. CM Dennis’ amendment would put 6 months of funding below the line and the sheriff would come back in January 2021 and May 2021 before council to ask for the remainder of funding.

CM Dennis provided historical data regarding a portion of the JSO budget being put below the line in the 2017-2018 budget. The discussion at that time was regarding the number of officers expected to be hired and JSO asked for more money than they needed. Because they did not use what they asked for, the dollars were re-appropriated. CM Carlucci asked for clarification on the amendment and the timeline of when JSO would need to return before council.

CM Dennis said the JSO budget was reviewed in a short amount of time and deferred to CM Carlucci, the chair of the Finance Committee. CM Carlucci did not agree that the budget review was reviewed in a short amount of time and emphasized hours were set aside in anticipation of many public comments. CM Carlucci said it is essentially a flat budget and cutting the budget would result in cutting manpower, which he would not be in support of. CM Morgan encouraged all council members and the public to look at the actual numbers of the JSO budget so people don’t believe that the money is being used for items that aren’t important to JSO services.

CM Dennis encouraged the public to contact their council members if they believe in supporting the amendment. He thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Public Comment: Attendees expressed support for the amendment and transparency in JSO. Attendees also expressed concerns that the amendment doesn’t go far enough and had complaints about JSO as a whole.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 11:33 a.m.

***The written minutes for this meeting are only an overview of what was discussed.***

***For verbatim comments for this meeting, please listen to the audio recording.***

Minutes: Taryn Roberts, Executive Council Assistant District 9

cc: Council Members/Staff

 Cheryl Brown, Director/Council Secretary

 Jessica Matthews, Chief, Legislative Services Division

 Jeff Clements, Chief of Research
Kristi Sikes, Chief, Administrative Services Division

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