

City of Jacksonville

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



Meeting Minutes - Amended

Monday, September 28, 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: 11:32 am

Meeting Adjourned: 1:06 pm

Attendance:

Co-chair Priestly Jackson; Co-chair Carlucci; Committee Members Boylan, DeFoor, Newby, Salem and White

Also: Council President Hazouri; Council Members Freeman and Gaffney

I. Introductions

Committee Co-chair Priestly Jackson welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda. Co-chair Carlucci suggested that going forward, CM Priestly Jackson lead the meetings and draft the agenda rather than alternating. Leading alternate meetings has become cumbersome, particularly as they can not collaborate easily on drafting the agenda within Sunshine Law provisions. All of the other committee members agreed with this suggestion, noting that it would be a more streamlined process.

CP Hazouri spoke briefly about the importance and significance of the committee's work.

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- II. Council Members' Legislative Priorities for Funding Considerations
 - a. Social Injustice
 - b. Law Enforcement
 - c. Economic Development
 - i. Infrastructure
 - ii. Jobs
 - iii. Education

There was a short discussion about how the committee recommendations will be delivered to the full council body. CM Priestly Jackson said that the intent is to craft legislation based on the CMs priorities, after noticed meetings related to each issue, which would go through the normal committee process before going before council for a vote (potentially at the end of November). The group reviewed the legislative priorities provided by each member and made adjustments as they preferred.

CM Boylan

1. Racial disparities in out of school suspension rates
2. Equitable access to medical care
3. Infrastructure equality throughout the city

CM Boylan said that his list will be changed to just include #2, access equitable preventative health care with a focus on Walmart clinics and the collaborative work of local free clinics (Jax Care Connect)

CM DeFoor

1. Neighborhood pride/blight and effects of consolidation
2. Neighborhood economic development
3. Neighborhood infrastructure

CM DeFoor said she will keep the neighborhood pride priority, with additional methods by which to build community trust- such as community policing.

CM Newby

1. Crime reduction
2. Economic development and job opportunity
3. Safe neighborhoods

CM Newby said he would like to focus primarily on crime reduction, particularly the emergency response funds discussed by the Safety and Crime Reduction Commission which would target needs in crime hotspots in the city as they arise.

CM Salem

1. Body camera policy and transparency
2. Mental health treatment and jails
3. Spending in Districts 7,8,9,10 for children's services and CIP

CM Salem said he will focus on the mental health in jails priority and that he has already had meetings with the Sheriff about the issue.

CM White

- 1. Cleaning up neighborhoods**
- 2. Infrastructure**
- 3. Crime prevention**

CM White said his focus will be on working with Code Enforcement on neighborhood clean-up and blight elimination.

CM Priestly Jackson

- 1. Infrastructure in Districts 7,8,9,10 and unfulfilled consolidation promises**
- 2. Infrastructure in Districts 1,2,3,4,5,6,11,12,13,and 14 especially in socio/economically disadvantaged areas**
- 3. Special taxing district to fund children's services**

CM Priestly Jackson spoke about meeting the needs of residents in socio/economically disadvantaged areas regardless of which part of the city they live; and she provided the committee with census data about poverty by council district. The poverty rate (Census data 2018) in Duval County is 15.5 percent. CDs 7,8, 9 and 10 have the highest rates of poverty, 31 percent, 33 percent, 30 percent and 24 percent respectively. CDs 6, 2 and 13 have the lowest rates of poverty, with 7 percent, 7 percent and 8 percent respectively. The document is posted on the committee webpage.

CM Carlucci

- 1. Infrastructure within the pre-consolidation boundaries**
- 2. Prevention/intervention programs with KHA, PSGs for vulnerable adults**
- 3. Septic tank remediation**

CM Carlucci spoke about directing KHA funds toward the teen court diversion program, and about prioritizing economic development as a pathway to improved neighborhood infrastructure and job creation.

III. Proposed Legislation Discussion with Council Members

-CM Newby will have a noticed meeting about emergency response funds and discuss it with the Safety and Crime Reduction Commission at the next meeting.

-CM DeFoor and CM White will coordinate and hold a noticed meeting related to code enforcement and neighborhood blight/delapidated structures.

-CM Boylan and CM Salem will work together to notice a meeting about equitable access to health care and will include parties from the local free clinics.

-CM Carlucci will notice a meeting to further discuss the teen court program.

-CM Priestly Jackson will notice a meeting to get input from other council members and the public about her listed priorities. CM Freeman (visiting) indicated that he would like to be a part of those meetings, and offered support for the process the committee is using.

-Other legislative concerns of CMs

CM Gaffney spoke about the importance of directing CRA money to grassroots organizations and to the neighborhoods that are in need, and not to the same entities who are already receiving funds from the City.

IV. Miscellaneous Concerns

CM DeFoor said she would like to tour CDs 7,8,9,and 10 to get to know those areas and the needs better.

CM Carlucci commented on the importance of recurring funding to make programs more effective.

CM Salem questioned the correlation between blight and poverty.

The committee talked about performance measures and a matrix to evaluate effectiveness as related to funding.

V. Public Comments (as time permits)

Members from the public provided comments about the need for an independent authority to work for social justice, broken promises of consolidation and the need for more public works jobs, and structural racism.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

CHampsey@coj.net 904.255.5151

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