

**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**

**October 8, 2020**

**11:00 a.m.**

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

**In attendance:** Subcommittee Members Joyce Morgan (Chair), Michael Boylan (Vice Chair), Randy DeFoor; Subject matter experts John Burr, Kelly Rich, John Sapora, Joshua Gellers, Ashantae Green

**Also**: Special Resiliency Committee subject matter experts Joshua Rosenberg, Bruce Fouraker, Sarah Boren; Jeff Clements, Yvonne Mitchell – Council Research Division; Steve Cassada, Eric Grantham and Melanie Wilkes – Council Support Services; Melissa Long and Lisa Ransom – Neighborhoods Department; Susan Grandin and Kealey West– Office of General Counsel; Sean Lahav – Northeast Florida Regional Council; James Richardson – Environmental Protection Board

**Meeting Convened**: 11:00 a.m.

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

Susan Grandin gave a brief reminder of the role of the citizen subject matter experts and said that it appears that everyone is cognizant of their roles and of using the right terms when referring to everyone’s participation in the subcommittee process.

Ms. Morgan said that a topic of discussion at last night’s WJCT Adapt forum on resiliency was the proper definition of the term “resilience” and invited Council Member Boylan to lead a discussion on reaching a mutually acceptable definition. Sarah Boren recommended the 100 Resilient Cities definition as a good one in part because it could help open up the path for funding from outside agencies. She recommended review of the resilience plans of Boston (which has many racial equity elements) and Orlando (which has innovative elements). Council Member Boylan thought the 100 Resilient Cities definition was good, but not as brief as the Special Committee’s earlier discussion seemed to prefer. John Sapora liked the Urban Land Institute (ULI) definition which has the advantage of brevity and the use of several keywords associated with resilience. Sarah Boren thought the ULI definition is more focused on discrete events and not on larger themes. She thinks funders are looking for innovation and cities with broader focus and willingness to be visionary. Resilience is a big and difficult issue and collaboration is very important and needs to be stressed in the definition. Mr. Boylan suggested use of the ULI definition with the addition of the word “collaboration”. Ms. Morgan suggested adding “chronic stressors” to “adverse events” as well. Sarah Boren recommended adding “prevention” to “prepare and plan”. John Sapora suggested the addition of the word “equitably”. There was general consensus around the following definition: Resiliency is the ability to collaboratively prepare and plan for, absorb, recover from, and more successfully adapt to chronic stressors and adverse events.

Sean Lahav of the Northeast Florida Regional Council discussed the newsletter discussed in previous meetings, which is housed on NEFRC’s website and can be linked to the Special Committee’s web site. The publication will be titled *Northeast Florida Resilient Highlights* so that it can incorporate information from other jurisdictions and will not use City of Jacksonville branding or logos. In response to a question from Council Member Morgan about how often a new issue would be released, Mr. Lahav suggested monthly would probably be best. The first issue will highlight the work of the Special Committee on Resiliency and the City of Jacksonville’s elected officials involved in that body. Future editions will cover topics recommended by the citizen subject matter experts.

Ashantae Green discussed her research on what other cities are doing in the area of resiliency planning. Orange County FL has a resiliency/sustainability office that leverages the power of partnerships and reaches out to organizations in the community to leverage educational opportunities in several areas, including with their school system. Orange County and Miami use arts and culture to educate the public on resiliency. New York City has an outreach platform and classes for citizens. San Francisco publishes a flooding resource guide. She noted some common themes among the city and county programs she reviewed - education, public outreach, social media, partnerships, collaboration. John Sapora recommended Resilient Houston and Resilient 305 in Miami-Dade County as examples of jurisdictions that have utilized a holistic and reginal approach to resiliency. Joshua Gellers recommended the City of Long Beach, California as a port city similar to Jacksonville that faces similar issues in its resiliency plan. He will send a link to their report to staff for distribution. Sarah Boren suggested the City of Boston’s plan as well.

Michael Boylan discussed exploring the concept of a Resiliency Council that would act in the same way as the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville to administer a grant program to distribute competitive funding to private organizations for resilience purposes. He thinks the funding could be particularly important in maintaining and restoring privately owned stormwater retention ponds, many of which have not been properly maintained and have lost much of their holding capacity. Such a council could also be mechanism for convening collaborative efforts among multiple agencies and for publicizing resilience issues. Shannon Blankinship suggested to Mr. Boylan that the Resilient Jax organization could potentially be the basis for a Resiliency Council. Mr. Boylan has discussed the concept with the Public Works Department, which is supportive of ways to deal with private stormwater management facilities, and with the Office of General Counsel about the potential legal issues involved in such a public/private endeavor.

Council Member DeFoor said the Infrastructure Subcommittee had discussed the idea of having a City Council commission (akin to the Waterways Commission) to oversee resilience issues. Mr. Boylan cautioned that the Public Works Department did not want the City to take any actions that would entangle the City in taking responsibility for ongoing maintenance or ownership of private facilities, which might be the case if a City agency directly appropriated funds to maintain those facilities instead of through a third party such as a Resilience Council. Sarah Boren said the Environmental Planning Subcommittee has also talked about the creation of an advisory body, commission, or other entity to support the City’s Chief Resilience Officer by offering expertise and forging connections to the community. Susan Grandin said the Cultural Council is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation and the Resiliency Committee needs to decide what model they think would be the most effective – a private corporation, an appointed City board or commission, an office within a City department, or something else. She described how the platting of lots in neighborhoods and the presence or absence of a formal homeowners association affects who is responsible for maintaining private stormwater facilities and how the work can be financed. Ms. DeFoor said she likes the concept being suggested and thinks educating about and incentivizing proper maintenance of private facilities ultimately benefits the river’s water quality and thereby everyone in the city. Ms. Morgan asked Chairwoman DeFoor to put the resiliency definition on a future Special Committee agenda for a decision. Ms. DeFoor said wants the subcommittees to start making legislative proposals for consideration at the November meeting.

Next steps: Mr. Boylan said he would be happy to make a presentation on his Resiliency Council concept to another subcommittee if that would be helpful. Ms. DeFoor said she will refer it to the Infrastructure and Continued Operations Subcommittee for discussion. John Sapora liked the Resiliency Council idea and thinks the third party model is a good one. Public education and private funding are important elements of resiliency. A Resiliency Council’s presumed public outreach function makes it an appropriate topic for this subcommittee to consider.

Next meeting – October 22nd, 11 a.m.

**Meeting adjourned:** 12:19 p.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

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