

# **City of Jacksonville**

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



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, October 12, 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: 11:31 am

Meeting Adjourned: 1:06 pm

Attendance:

**Committee Members Priestly Jackson (co-chair), Carlucci (co-chair), DeFoor, Boylan, Salem, Newby and White**

**Also: Council Members Pittman, Gaffney and Freeman**

**I. Introductions**

**Co-Chair Priestly Jackson welcomed the group and called for introductions.**

**II. Presentation-Septic Tanks by John Pappas, Director, Public Works Department**

**Mr. Pappas gave a presentation on the septic tank phase out, a joint program with the City and JEA. As background, Mr. Pappas explained that there are roughly 65,000 septic tanks in Jacksonville, and that tank failures can be harmful to waterways. The phase out program began in response to citizens' requests to provide new water and sewer to established neighborhoods with no upfront costs to property owners. There are 35 failure areas that have been identified which include 22,000 septic tanks. A combination of factors are used to rank and prioritize which projects are selected and in what order, considering the environmental risk and impact as well as community concerns (such as homes built before 1968, undeveloped areas, areas with adjacent vacant lots).**

**The phase out program is voluntary for property owners and 70 percent or more of neighborhood residents have to consent for a project to proceed. JEA provides neighborhood outreach to make folks aware of the program and its advantages: all costs are covered that are associated with the installation of new water and sewer lines, including the plumbing work on private property and septic tank abandonment; program pays for all permit and JEA fees (including JEA Capacity Fee) – no repayment; empty lots will receive a water and sewer connection at the property line for future connection; roads impacted by construction will be repaved. To date, one project (Biltmore) is under construction, one (Beverly Hills) is in the design phase and one (Christobel) is in the early stages of outreach.**

**CM Salem asked about bond issuance to offset the costs or expand the program, there will be a report from the Auditor's Office and Finance Department on this question. JEA is also actively researching new and improved technologies that would make the phase out less expensive.**

**CM Priestly Jackson noted the correlation between septic tanks and unfulfilled consolidation promises, and said that a map overlay would show the parallels with neighborhoods in poverty and those in the septic failure areas.**

- III. **Proposed Legislation for Consideration and by Council Members**
  - A. **CM Sam Newby-Safety and Crime Reduction Commission**
  - B. **CM Randy DeFoor and CM Randy White-Code Enforcement and Neighborhood Blight and Dilapidated Structures**
  - C. **CM Michael Boylan and CM Ron Salem-Equitable Access to Healthcare and Local Free Clinics**
  - D. **CM Matt Carlucci-Teen Court program**
  - E. **CM Brenda Priestly Jackson-Policy and Legislation Infrastructure and Jobs Program**
  - F. **Other legislative concerns of CMs**

CM Newby shared information on his upcoming bill related to workforce training and job placement (Operation Boost), priorities identified by the Safety and Crime Reduction Commission that could help to reduce crime. If approved, \$200,000 would be appropriated to go towards scholarships and other needs (childcare, transportation) for training and job placement from Workforce Industrial Training and FSCJ. CM Newby will hold a noticed meeting on this topic on October 22 and there is a student recruitment event on October 30. CMs Gaffney and Pittman expressed their support.

CMs DeFoor and White talked about their potential legislation related to blight and code compliance. CM DeFoor described a plan to pick one neighborhood of focus, maximize whatever funds available to "clean up the area", and compare crime data pre and post clean up. CM Gaffney expressed support and suggested that the clean up could also create jobs for those in the selected neighborhood, possible for ex-offenders who struggle to find gainful employment due to a criminal record. CMs Salem and Pittman suggested that CM DeFoor look into some historical projects (Mayor Delaney's Neighborhood Intensive Care and Paint the Town) for aspects that could help guide the current neighborhood cleanup effort.

CMs Boylan and Salem talked about legislation related to accessible preventative health care. CM Boylan is collaborating with a network of local free clinics and CM Salem is working with JSO and the judiciary on mental health policies in the jails. There will be a noticed meeting in the upcoming weeks and they will report back to the committee. CM Gaffney indicated that he would like to work with them on this bill.

CM Carlucci talked about teen court, as a diversion program for first offenders (misdemeanors). CM Carlucci is working with KHA to find funds to expand the program, which in its current form has seen success and low rates of recidivism. Any additional funding could go towards contracting with more case managers, who work with the families throughout the process and are essential to the program's success.

#### **IV. Miscellaneous Concerns**

**CM Pittman reminded the committee about the sports complex project in her district that she spoke about a few meetings ago. Co-Chair Priestly Jackson assured her that it had not been forgotten and that it will be included in the committee legislative process. The group spoke briefly as to whether there would be multiple bills or one bill with all of the components rolled together. The committee will decide on that issue next meeting.**

**CM DeFoor talked about the historic building at Stanton High School and how preservation is important.**

#### **V. Public Comments (as time permits)**

**There was no time remaining for public comment.**

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research  
CHampsey@coj.net 904.251.5151  
Posted: 10.15.2020 5:00 pm