

# City of Jacksonville

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



## Meeting Minutes

**Monday, December 7, 2020**

**11:30 AM**

**Council Chambers 1st Floor, City Hall & Virtual**

### **Special Committee on Social Justice and Community Investment**

*CM Matt Carlucci, Co-Chair  
CM Brenda Priestly Jackson, Co-Chair*

Meeting Convened: 11:39 am      Meeting Adjourned: 1:11 pm

Attendance: Co-Chair Priestly Jackson, Co-Chair Carlucci; Council Members Boylan, DeFoor, Newby, Salem and White

**Also: CMs Pittman, Freeman and Gaffney**

**I.      Introductions**

**C-Chair Carlucci welcomed the group and called for introductions. All committee members were present with the exception of Co-Chair Priestly Jackson who joined at 11:48 am.**

## **II. Overview of Review of Proposed Legislation and Funding Supported by the SJCIC**

**CM Newby spoke about his \$200,000 funding request, which will go the Boost program that provides workforce training scholarships, to lead to well paid jobs, in an effort to reduce crime and recidivism.**

**CMs DeFoor and White spoke about their proposed \$200,000 request for the Neighborhood Blight and Clean-up Pilot Program. CM DeFoor explained that this pilot program will make specific investments of infrastructure and clean up assistance in a neighborhood with high amounts of identified blighted structures to result in a reduction of crime and an increase in quality of life for the residents. Working with Municipal Code Compliance, the neighborhood of Brentwood was selected because it currently has 50 active nuisance and board up cases, 16 unsafe structures, cases of graffiti, and additional code enforcement concerns. The program will be coordinated through existing City Departments, Municipal Code Compliance (MCC), Public Works, Parks Department, and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, and is intended to result in the creation of jobs, increased community pride, and a tracked and proven reduction in crime (with a pre and post crime data comparison).**

**CM Boylan made a presentation with Angela Strain, Director of WeCareJax (organization that collaborates with a network of free and charitable clinics to provide specialty care to their uninsured patients) regarding the \$200,000 funding request for the JaxCare Connect program. Ms. Strain talked about the vision to provide access to health care to all regardless of insurance status particularly below the poverty level; preventative care as opposed to emergency room usage; insurance loss due to unemployment/COVID 19. The funds will cover additional staffing- a program administrator and health advocates- capacity building and data management. Funds are also coming from philanthropic foundations and other community partners. CMs Salem and Newby expressed support for this program.**

**CM Salem presented on his funding request of \$200,000 with a match from JSO and Sulzbacher for a mental health jail diversion program. Chief Judge Mark Mahon spoke about the Mental Health Pilot program that includes pre-trial release and wraparound services for those with mental health issues as an alternative to jail. Judge Mahon mentioned the challenge and importance of finding safe and affordable housing for this population, and about an effective Miami program that has led to the closing of a jail entirely. Sulzbacher, in collaboration with Duval County Judges, State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Lutheran Services of Florida, and Gateway Community Services are rolling out a 9 month pilot program (20-40 served) that will offer mental health treatment, free prescriptions, intensive case management; substance abuse treatment and scattered site housing (if needed); Wraparound services: job placement, SOAR processor for SSI/SSDI, peer specialist, and other supportive services as needed.**

**Cindy Funkhouser, Sulzbacher Center, talked about the community partners involved in the program and the process by which it will operate. In Duval County, 2019: 925**

people arrested with a mental health flag and 92 were homeless (10%). In 2020 (through Sept.): 658 people arrested with a mental health flag and 242 were homeless (37%). Arrests, jail time, hospital admissions, JFRD usage data all will be tracked pre and post. CM DeFoor expressed her support for this 'legacy' program, and thanked Judge Mahon and CM Salem for spearheading it, asked to co-sponsor any legislation. CM Gaffney said this is the most needed program in decades, and commended all of those involved.

CM Pittman spoke about her \$250,000 funding request for the after school program at Clanzel Brown Park, in collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club and potentially the Cal Ripken Foundation. CM Salem expressed his support for athletics as a diversion from crime. CM Priestly Jackson noted how important the program will be for the area, which is lacking in such services right now. CM Freeman said that diversity in baseball is essential, and having this program opens up opportunities for kids in this zip code.

CM Carlucci spoke briefly about the Teen Court program, and the funding request of \$140,000 that will go towards salaries for added case workers.

CM Gaffney thanked everyone and said he wants to co-sponsor all legislation that may arise from these programs. He also requested to set aside the funds (\$300,000) for the Stanton Building, until such time that action may be taken - possibly January. CMs Boylan, DeFoor and Newby commented on the historic nature of the building. and the need for preservation.



III. **Proposed Legislation for Consideration and Funding and by SJCIC**  
**A. CM Sam Newby-Safety and Crime Reduction Commission-Operation Boost**  
Funding Requested: \$200,000  
Noticed Meeting Date: 10/22/20  
Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents to be Served: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Legislation filed:  Yes  No

**B. CM Randy DeFoor and CM Randy White-Neighborhood Blight and Cleanup Pilot Program**  
Funding Requested: \$200,000  
Noticed Meeting Date: 10/9/20  
Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents to be Served: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Legislation filed:  Yes  No

**C. CM Michael Boylan-Equitable Access to Healthcare and Local Free Clinics**  
Funding Requested:  
Noticed Meeting Date:  
Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents to be Served: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Legislation filed:  Yes  No

**D. CM Ron Salem-Mental Health Services and Diversionary Program for those Convicted of Misdemeanors**  
Funding Requested: \$200,000  
Notice Meeting Date:  
Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents to be Served: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Legislation filed:  Yes  No

**E. CM Matt Carlucci-Teen Court program**  
Funding Requested: \$140,000  
Noticed Meeting Date:  
Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents to be Served: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Legislation filed:  Yes  No

**F. CM JuCoby Pittman-Teen Baseball Program for Young People At Risk**  
Funding Requested: \$250,000  
Noticed Meeting Date:  
Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents to be Served: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Legislation filed:  Yes  No

**G. CM Reggie Gaffney-Roof and Restoration for Old Stanton**

---

Funding Requested: \$300,000

Noticed Meeting Date:

Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents to be Served: \_\_\_\_\_

Legislation filed:  Yes  No

H. Other Legislative Concerns of CMs

Funding Requested:

Noticed Meeting Date:

Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents to be Served: \_\_\_\_\_

Legislation filed:  Yes  No

Committee vote on programs- items will co-sponsored by the SJCIC and the CM, and sent through the regular committee process:

CM Newby 7-0

CM DeFoor and White 7-0

CM Boylan 7-0

CM Salem 7-0

CM Pittman 7-0

CM Gaffney 7-0

(roughly \$1,190,000)

#### IV. SJCIC Jobs Initiative Discussion

CMs White and Newby met last week with CM Priestly Jackson and various nonprofits about a job initiative for those 16-25, and at risk. Many of the nonprofits in attendance are grassroots operations and do not currently receive City funds. More will come on this plan in January.

#### V. Miscellaneous Concerns

CM Carlucci spoke about the importance for continuity, and long term funding for these programs in the City budget. He also suggested drafting a resolution reflecting such prioritization. CM Priestly Jackson concurred, if the programs turn out to be measurably effective. CM Boylan said funds should be set aside annually to meet the needs of the community, and also mentioned the eviction assistance program which has been swamped with applicants (4000 so far) which may need expansion. CM Salem said he hopes that all CMs participate in the SJCIC process going forward.

#### VI. Public Comments (as time permits)

Mr. Oliver talked about the need for more community centers and teen activities.

Ms. Lunsford spoke about accountability and transparency for City funded programs.

Next meeting: January 11, 2021.

Colleen Hampsey, Council Research  
CHampsey@coj.net 904.255.5151  
Posted: 12.11.2020 5:00 pm