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OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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July 2, 2021
2:00 p.m.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable City Council Members

FROM: The Honorable Sam Newby, Council President

SUBJECT: The Special Committee on Opioid Epidemic, Vaping & Mental Health Resources

In accordance with Council Rule 2.103 (a), as President of the Jacksonville City Council I hereby appoint a Special Committee on the Opioid Epidemic, Vaping and Mental health resources.

Background - On July 21, 2017 the City Council established a Special Committee on the Opioid Epidemic. On July 6, 2018 on October 22, 2019 and on July 1, 2021, the special committee was extended. This committee with the help and guidance of professionals from the substance abuse organizations and Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department (JFRD) developed a pilot program called Project Save Lives. This program is dedicated to assisting patients with severe addiction. Since its inception Project Save Lives has proved to drastically reduce the number of opioid related deaths.

Charge - Opioid Epidemic. Project Save Lives has been successful in reducing opioid related deaths as well as calls for service from JFRD. It is important that we continue to ensure the success of this program. I am asking this new committee to monitor the progress of the opioid epidemic and recommend suggestions for improvement and/or expansion of program Project Save Lives. It will remain the legislative body's vehicle in fighting the opioid crisis while working hand in hand with members of the Opioid Abuse Prevention Committee established by ordinance 2019-56-E.

Vaping - Make recommendations in regards to vaping or use of electronic cigarettes. Provide updates on the vaping and use of electronic cigarettes, public service announcements, and the success of the City's campaign to educate youth on the dangers of vaping.

Mental Health Resources - Mental Health Resources and awareness resources are important tools. This Committee will provide a survey of the City and State funds and the recipient agencies thereof, and provide a summary of city and state mental health resources.

Members:

Council Member Ronald B. Salem, Pharm. D, Chair
Council Member Michael Boylan
Council Member Ju'Coby Pittman
Council Member Randy DeFoor
Council Member Randy White
Council Vice President Terrence Freeman

Deadline:

The Special Committee on Opioid Epidemic, Vaping and Mental Health Resources is tasked to report its findings and recommendations and any suggested legislation in regard to these topics by June 30, 2022.

Thank you to each of the Council Members and the staff who make the commitment to serve on this important committee.

cc: Council Members/Staff
Cheryl L. Brown, Director/Council Secretary
Jessica Matthews, Chief, Legislative Services Division
Kim Taylor, Council Auditor
Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division
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