

City of Jacksonville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 11, 2021

3:00 PM

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: 3:05 pm Meeting Adjourned: 4:09 pm

Attendance:

Committee Members Priestly Jackson (Co-Chair), Carlucci (Co-Chair), Newby, Boylan, DeFoor, and Salem

Excused: CM White

Also: CMs Gaffney and Morgan; Peggy Sidman, Office of General Counsel; Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

I. Introductions

- II. Proposed Legislation for Consideration and Funding and by Council Members**
- A. CM Sam Newby- 2021-23 Operation Boost! Program (\$100,000 to Workforce Industrial Training, LLC (“WIT”) & \$100,000 FSCJ)**
Funding Requested: \$200,000
Noticed Meeting Date: 10/22/20
Introduced: 1/12/2021
- B. CM Randy DeFoor and CM Randy White - 2021-24 Neighbors Dept – Municipal Code Compliance Div for a Neighborhood Blight & Clean-up Pilot Program in the Brentwood Neighborhood**
Funding Requested: \$200,000
Noticed Meeting Date: 10/9/20
Introduced: 1/12/2021
- C. CM Michael Boylan - 2021-22 JaxCareConnect Program (\$80,000 to We Care Jax, Inc. & \$120,000 to 6 Clinics (\$20,000 to Each Clinic)**
Funding Requested: \$200,000
Notice Meeting Date: 10/28/2020
Introduced: 1/12/2021
- D. Other Legislative Concerns of CMs**
Funding Requested:
Noticed Meeting Date:
- E. CM Brenda Priestly Jackson-Policy and Legislation Infrastructure and Jobs Program**
Discussion

CM Newby explained his legislation for the Operation Boost! Program, Ordinance 2021-23, that will be introduced on 1/12/2021 to council. Operation Boost! includes workforce recruitment, training and employment placement. The primary target groups will be individuals ages 18 and older in underserved populations. \$100,000 funding to Workforce Industrial Training will provide: cost free training for 50 students; nationally recognized certifications, credentials and certificates of completion; wrap-around and soft skill support services; employability training and job placement assistance; program instructors, student manuals, program curriculum and consumables lab materials and equipment rentals. \$100,000 funding to FSCJ will provide: \$75,000 to create one hundred \$750 scholarships for Low-Income Students with demonstrated financial need; \$25,000 to create a Student Emergency Assistance Fund for Low-Income Students available to students with financial need to address demonstrated extenuating circumstances. Awards will be for expenses up to \$500 and will students will be limited to two awards per lifetime. Examples of extenuating circumstances include: transportation challenges impeding class attendance, rent payment needed to prevent eviction, etc.

CM Newby said that he has connected with several businesses who are favorable to hiring those who complete the training. All members of the committee asked to be co-sponsors.

CM Randy DeFoor explained Ordinance 2021-24, co-introduced with CM White. The \$200,000 request will provide funding for to the Neighborhoods Department Municipal

Code Compliance Division for a Neighborhood Blight and Cleanup pilot program in the Brentwood neighborhood. This program will bring together existing City Departments, Municipal Code Compliance, Public Works, Parks Department, to work with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, on these investments. A successful Blight and Clean-up program will result in the creation of jobs, increased community pride, and a tracked and proven reduction in crime.

CM Michael Boylan explained Ordinance 2021-22, co-sponsored by CM Salem. The \$200,000 funding request is for the JaxCareConnect initiative that will enable Jacksonville's free and charitable health clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers to formalize their collaborative operations as a system of health care for uninsured residents of Jacksonville. JaxCareConnect will provide primary health care for an additional 2,000 uninsured residents of Duval County between 2021 through 2024, resulting in an estimated cost savings of \$4.4 million in unnecessary emergency room visits. A lack of access to preventative medical care, especially with limited resources, contributes to poor health outcomes, and exacerbates economic hardship. The funds will be allocated to the following: \$30,000 to membership in Electronic Health Records System; \$50,000 salary, benefits and equipment for a 3rd patient health advocate; \$120,000 to support capacity at the six clinic sites (Agape Community Health Center, Inc., WestJax Outreach dba Community Health Outreach, Muslim American Social Services, Mission House, I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless, Inc., and Volunteers in Medicine \$20,000/clinic).

CM Salem spoke briefly about Ordinance 2020-733, enacted December 8, 2020. The legislation included an appropriation of \$200,000 for the Mental Health Offender Pilot Program, a diversion program for misdemeanor offenders with mental illnesses. The program will be managed by the Sulzbacher Center in collaboration with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, the State Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, Duval County Judges and the Jacksonville Housing Authority, and the funds will go towards wrap around services and a program coordinator. CM Salem said that he will be providing more information on the program at the upcoming meeting of the Special Committee Opioid Epidemic, Vaping, and Mental Health Resources January 14.

CM Carlucci spoke briefly about Ordinance 2020-758, introduced on December 8, 2020. If approved by council, the legislation will provide \$140,000 to expand the Teen Court program to fund two full-time case managers and one part-time case manager. The Teen Court program provides sanctions and services to young people up to the age of 18 who have been issued a civil citation for a misdemeanor offense in lieu of being arrested. This existing program is overseen by KHA and has seen success in minimizing recidivism.

CM Gaffney spoke about the funding request for improvements to the Historic Stanton Building, for which there is no legislation as of yet. Peggy Sidman, OGC, explained that the process is moving forward, with the potential for additional funding from the DIA Downtown Trust Fund and private donations from the Masonic Lodge. CM Gaffney is meeting this week with the building owners who acquired the building's title last

month.

CM Pittman was not in attendance but an update on her \$250,000 funding request for the after school program at Clanzel Brown Park was provided to the committee. The project is in collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club and potentially the Cal Ripken Foundation. The contracts with the Boys and Girls Club is awaiting approval from that entity, and the legislation will be filed in the next bill cycle.

CM Morgan spoke about the need for \$30,000 in funds for a professional facilitator for the Safer Together series of workshops on community policing, policies, procedures, and budgeting. The meetings will include presentations from subject matter experts regarding best practices, with input from community groups and members of the public. For the time being the workshops will continue to be virtual, with an organizational meeting at the end of January and full workshops commencing in February. The workshop charge specifies completion by June 30, 2021 with a report submitted to council by July 27, 2021.

CM Brenda Priestly Jackson spoke about a proposed jobs initiative, about which she met with CMs White and Newby in December. The target population will be socio-economically disadvantaged individuals over 25 who need a different skillset for job marketability, and those formerly incarcerated whose background may be an obstacle to employment. CM Salem asked if JaxChamber would be involved, and CM Priestly Jackson said all community partners are welcome to participate. CM Newby specified that the organizations that would receive any eventual funds would be those who do not already get City dollars. There will be further discussion on this jobs initiative at the next SJCIC meeting.

CM Priestly Jackson spoke about infrastructure and a coordination with Public Works on septic tank remediation. CM Priestly Jackson asked PW for an overlay of regional socio-economic disadvantaged areas as compared with the septic tank removal priorities. No SJCIC funds are requested for septic tank removals currently, but some funds are already in place from the Administration.

III. Miscellaneous Concerns

IV. Public Comments (as time permits)

Wells Todd talked about white supremacy and race/class divisions as related to the tragic events that occurred in the Nation's Capitol last week. Mr. Todd also mentioned the relationship between institutional racism and poverty, especially the ability to acquire wealth.

Stanley Scott expressed frustrations with the committee's process and emphasized the need for community engagement.

Bobbie O'Connor spoke about structural police reforms that are needed to build community trust.

CM Priestly Jackson talked about the progress made thus far, and how they are off to a strong start to address the priorities listed in the committee's charge.

CM Carlucci talked about the need for sustainable funding sources for social justice projects, and the failed attempt to raise the mileage rate to create such funding. **CM Carlucci** highlighted the need to invest in the community and not always strive to run the city cheaply.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research
CHampsey@coj.net 904.255.5151
Posted 1.12.2021 5:00 pm