

City of Jacksonville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 25, 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: 4:36 pm

Attendance:

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

Council Members Gaffney, Pittman, Morgan (virtual) and Freeman (virtual)

Also: Peggy Sidman, Office of General Counsel; Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

I. Introductions

Co-Chair Priestly Jackson welcomed the group, reviewed the agenda, and said that the first item would be the presentations on jobs initiatives.

- II. **SJCIC Jobs Initiatives Proposals and Presentations**
 - A. **Northside Coalition of Jacksonville**
 - B. **Quench the Violence “Re Works Project”**
 - C. **Workforce Industrial Training**

Northside Coalition of Jacksonville-Training Employment Opportunity Program (TEOP) (\$146,020)

Ben Frazier, President and Founder of the Northside Coalition of Jacksonville, spoke about civic engagement and his organization's history of advocacy for NW Jax residents.

Mr. Frazier described their proposed program that will focus on Duval County residents aged 18- 24, and also those 25 and older who have faced career or job disruptions for various reasons (Covid-19 pandemic, incarceration, lack of skills, lack of a GED or high school diploma). TEOP will serve 15 students in a 96 hour industry approved course over a period of 12 weekends, (on Saturdays) the TEOP will provide students with specialized training for cabling and security careers. Students will receive bi- weekly stipend payments paid at \$15 per hour, use of laptop computers, breakfast and lunch, and transportation assistance. Upon graduation, participants will receive fiber optic and security industry certification and job placement assistance.

CM DeFoor asked about job placement and community partnerships. Mr. Frazier said that they are open to cooperation with various local civic and business entities.

CM Salem asked about the process for job program proposals, and CM Priestly Jackson spoke about the noticed meeting from December when jobs initiatives were discussed. All interested parties who attended that meeting were invited to submit proposals for program funding from the SJCIC, providing that they conform with a list of eligibility criteria to contract with the City. After listening to the presentations at this meeting, the committee will then decide which programs to allocate funds.

CM Salem asked about the project budget, property purchases, such as laptops, and to whom they will belong after the program ends, and about the travel expenses for out of town trainers. The trainers are specialized, industry certified master trainers based in DC and California, who travel around the country. Jeff Sims, Sims Consulting, said the travel expenses are estimates and could fluctuate depending on seasonal effects. CM Salem asked if the Northside Coalition has implemented job programs before, they haven't but Sims Consulting has previously. Mr. Frazier said that the Northside Coalition of Jacksonville is a Sun Biz registered nonprofit with platinum status and financial transparency.

CM Gaffney spoke favorably about Mr. Frazier's commitment to the city and about the innovative ideas he presented. Mr. Frazier said he looks forward to being partners in progress with the City. CM Newby also spoke in support of Mr. Frazier and complimented his outside of the box thinking.

CM Boylan asked about compliance and accountability, Mr. Frazier said they will provide reports to council with whatever regularity the contract requires. CM Priestly Jackson talked about social injustice and the need to fund grassroots programs. CM

Pittman asked about the program location. Mr. Frazier said he hopes it will be in 32208 or 32209, where there are roughly 17,000 people in the target age group, possibly located in a church on Moncrief Road; and he noted that the program could help revitalize the area.

Operation Save Our Sons- Difference Makers and Menturn (\$292,918)

Bishop Jon Guns spoke about their proposed jobs initiative that will empower young men, ages 11-18 to maximize their potential for positive civic impact through contributions to their families and community, equipping them to one day be effective leaders and fathers. Mr. Guns spoke about the need to reach the youth, before they become unreachable later in life. The program can serve about 25 students per school, for a total around 75 participants. Mr. Guns said his hope is that all of the programs being proposed are connected in purpose.

Elementary School: JEGs, Character Building & Social Emotional Training, Grades 3rd-5th, focused on creating children that are socially and emotional stable, have respect for authority, and understand the importance of giving their best effort in everything they do, giving the youth an opportunity to express themselves and give them guidance through issues that are often overlooked.

Middle/High Grades 6th-9th: Difference Makers, Career exploration, character building & Social Emotional Training, character building as well as exposing the youth to as many career fields as possible. Middle school is also a time where the youth social emotional health is going through a transition, training sessions will be on various subjects that will prepare the youth for positive relationship with peers, partners, parents and community.

High School 10th -12th: Menturn -Career Exploration, Job and Internship placement, Character building. Through strategic partnerships and the strengths of the individual child, the program will pair the youth to an organization that will prepare them for the real world as well as continue to offer mentorship guidance and ongoing training.

CM Newby agreed with the need to reach boys while they are young, and before they can make mistakes/bad decisions that affect their life trajectory, in order to make the most impact. CM Salem talked about the need to start programming before middle school to be effective.

CM Carlucci asked about community partnerships. CM Gaffney extended his support for this program as a method to reduce crime.

CM Pittman asked about parental involvement in SOS programs, and it was said that parents are integral. Mr. Guns said that many parents are not equipped to handle all of the challenges they face, and that they are battling their own issues with poverty and unemployment. Wraparound services are needed to help the whole family.

CM Boylan talked about program financial sustainability, and asked what current funding SOS has. The Difference Makers program receives funds from the state, and the City funds will permit the program to expand to serve more students while adhering to a 5:1 student to adult ratio.

Quench the Violence - Re Works Project (\$284,725)

Pastor LeCount spoke about the creation of his organization. Quench The Violence began in 2006 as an anti-violence community prevention, education and outreach program and was founded by Pastor Robert LeCount, who lost his son to gun violence. The program has been active in the community and a registered non-profit for over a decade. Pastor LeCount also made a point about it never being too late for one to turn one's life around, if there is opportunity and the right influences/supports.

The Re Works program will serve up to 200 participants, ages 18 to 35, over a period of six months to one year, or until all awarded funds are exhausted. The goal is to provide a clear professional and career pathway that results in acquisition of a full-time living wage job placement. The program mission is to provide accessible career mentoring, training, and coaching to guide participants to professional pathways in high wage, high demand, high success careers, fostering socio-economic and career mobility and independence. Community partners will include: Duval County Public Schools for Adult Education referrals, Career Source Northeast Florida, Area Churches and Pastoral Alliances, Community Neighborhood Associations, LISC, FSCJ, UNF, EWC, Duval County Housing Authorities, JTA, and the City of Jacksonville Library. Dr. Jennifer Blalock, Quench the Violence volunteer and consultant, said that 18-24 year olds are the most vulnerable, especially if they don't see a path forward in life. Re-works targets them to help show them a pathway forward, and a way to achieve careers not jobs. Dwight Brisbane, former Quench the Violence board member, talked about career training and placement. Training to be included: CNA and phlebotomist training and placement (Acumen training); Capstone Career Institute, pharmacist tech with state and national certification. Mr. Brisbane acknowledged that felony records may be obstacles for many students and said that alternative paths can be discovered where the criminal record is less of an impediment. He mentioned one such gentleman where SOS assisted in his starting his own lawn service business (SOS loaned the lawn equipment which was returned after he made enough money to buy his own).

CM Newby commended Pastor LeCount on his work, noted how this program could integrate with the BOOST project.

CM DeFoor asked how many students would be targeted and complimented the collaboration with community partners. Dr. Blalock said the expectation is that 200 students would start, and hopefully they all finish. Depending on circumstances, about 100-150 students could complete all aspects of the program to achieve credentials at the end.

CM Gaffney extended his support. CM Pittman asked about the local job market, to make sure these jobs are actually in demand. Dr. Blalock indicated that the training selections are data driven, based on the local market said placement with a living wage is essential (15/hr minimum). Dr. Blalock highlighted the importance of the life coaching to provide support to students. When asked where the program would be located, Mr. Brisbane said possibly in Springfield, or in other church centers.

Workforce Industrial Training-provided a proposal but did not present at this meeting. Total funds requested \$160,000, to provide 80 student industry certification training scholarships (valued at \$2,000 each) awarded to individuals (16-24 and those 25 and older).

- III. Proposed New Legislation for Consideration and Funding by SJCIC**
- A. CM JuCoby Pittman- Update on Funding to the KHA for the Boys and Girls' Clubs of NE Florida to for After School Program and Summer Programing and to the Clanzel T. Brown Community Center and Park**
Funding Requested: \$225,280
Legislation Number: 2021-0052
Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents to be Served
Legislation filed: Yes No
- B. CM Micheal Boylan and CM Joyce Danford-"Safer Together" Series of Workshops**
Funding Requested: \$23,000 (Professional Support Services)
\$10,000 (Subject Matter Experts)
\$ 2,500 (Miscellaneous Expenses)
Total Funding Requested: \$35,500
Noticed Meeting Date:
Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents to be Served: _____

Legislation filed: Yes No
- C. Other Legislative Concerns of CMs**
Funding Requested:
Noticed Meeting Date:
Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents to be Served: _____

Legislation filed: Yes No

CM Pittman spoke about her recently filed legislation (2021-52) for afterschool and summer youth programs at Clanzel Brown Park, with SJCIC funding of \$225,280. The Cal Ripken Foundation will be providing funds as well.

CM Boylan and CM Morgan said that a facilitator is needed for the Safer Together Workshops - a series of workshops on community policing, policies, procedures, and budgeting - and requested SJCIC funds amounting to \$36,000. The appropriation bill has not been filed yet because CM Boylan wanted to make sure the committee supported the request. All SJCIC members voted in support of the request, 7-0 through a voice vote. CM Morgan introduced Dr. Hodo, All Things Diverse, a facilitator who may be assisting with the workshops.

Community Revolution Festival (\$62,000)
Marie Huffman, I Care Florida, briefly presented a funding request for a proposed community job awareness and music event. The event is intended to encourage neighborhood camaraderie, community activism, social awareness and knowledge of local resources.

IV. Discussion of Proposed SJCIC Infrastructure Projects for Consideration and Funding

CM Priestly Jackson talked about infrastructure equity and a collaboration with Public Works on re-prioritizing projects in the septic tank remediation program to incorporate all socio-economically disadvantaged areas of the city. CM Priestly Jackson also asked the committee members to think about other potential infrastructure projects to consider.

CM Gaffney asked about the total funds still available to SJCIC, and CM Priestly Jackson said she will find out and report back at the next meeting.

CM Priestly Jackson said that organizations may still submit proposals for job programs. Peggy Sidman, OGC, said the proposals should clearly define deliverables, timelines, travel expenses, food expenditures as related to City policies. The contracts will have to be very specific, for example will the City be funding entities according to how many students start the program, or complete it, etc.

V. Miscellaneous Concerns

Peggy Sidman, OGC, provided an update on the Old Stanton Building. The owners have acquired the deed, and options are being pursued to rehabilitate the building.

VI. Public Comments (as time permits)

There was no time remaining for public comment.

The next SJCIC meeting will be February 8, 2021 at 3:00 pm.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research
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Posted: 1.28.2021 5:00 pm