

City of Jacksonville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 22, 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: 3:03 pm Meeting Adjourned: 4:21 pm

Attendance:

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

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

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

Agenda Discussion

I. Introductions - Co-Chair Priestly Jackson welcomed the group and called for introductions. Co-Chair Priestly Jackson also said that proposals for the SJCIC jobs initiative will be voted upon after all have been submitted, most likely in March.

II. SJCIC Jobs Initiatives, Other Proposals and Presentations

a. Suzy M. Jackson, Senior Business Strategist, Pollock Group Solutions, Florida Black Expo (Funding request \$50,000)

Mincy Pollock, President & CEO at The Pollock Group, spoke about the upcoming multi-day event scheduled for August 2021, with an anticipated attendance of 10,000 and a hybrid/virtual option due to the pandemic. The focus of the Black Expo is community economic empowerment, through entrepreneurship, jobs, health, education, history/culture and wealth creation. The event will also include a summit for high school students, Teenpreneurs. The organizers are requesting \$50,000 from the SJCIC, which would help with event costs and enable them to keep the price for admission low, at \$5 per person. The organizers are also requesting funds from the Administration and working with various community partners on possible sponsorships.

CM Salem asked for a breakdown of City funds appropriated in the past for the event, and a current list of event funding requests.

CM Gaffney said that he was already holding meetings to find council contingency funds for the event, prior to the request to the SJCIC.

CM Boylan expressed concerns about funding for events, rather than programs, and questioned how such funding would match with the committee's charge.

b. Marie Huffman, I Care Florida, Community Revolution Festival (Funding request \$62,000)

Ms. Huffman 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.

CM Gaffney said that he was already holding meetings to find council contingency funds for the event, prior to the request to the SJCIC.

CM Carlucci asked how much money was still available to the committee. Co-Chair Priestly Jackson said the total will be more accurately discerned after the next council meeting, to see which pending SJCIC recommended bills are approved. Co-Chair Priestly Jackson asked about community partners for the event, and Ms. Huffman listed Worksource, Jobcorp and Rand Staffing.

c. Dr. Nahshon Nicks, CEO The First Coast Leadership Foundation, Mentor to Thrive Program (Funding request \$75,000)

Dr. Nicks spoke about the Mentor to Thrive Program and the mission to convert the streets from battlegrounds to playgrounds. The First Coast Leadership Foundation's priority is to eliminate gaps in opportunities for their targeted population and trigger more positive outcomes and increase success, holistically, to include home, school, and work, with wrap-around referral services to families. The program objectives are: decreasing risk factors for substance abuse by increasing protective resources; promoting resilience through mentorship; connecting families to resources, such as health and social services; promoting community-driven activities; providing access to mental health and law enforcement agencies. The funding request would enable services to 75 mentees in zip codes 32218, 32211, 32206 and 32209 for a period of one year.

CM Salem asked to see their operating budget from last year.

CM Boylan asked how the mentors are recruited, and Dr. Nicks said that they are local volunteers, who are trained and vetted.

Co-Chair Priestly Jackson asked about how the pandemic has impacted their program services, and how that may be a factor going forward.

CM DeFoor asked about program outcomes, and Dr. Nicks cited the following statistics from their proposal: 99% of mentees have not offended or re-offended, 49% of mentees reported improved parent-child relationship, 64% of mentees demonstrated an increase in school attendance, 86% of mentees demonstrated an increase in social connectedness and support, and 95% mentor retention rate. The First Coast Leadership Foundation Jacksonville Mentoring Program Student Impact: Increased Confidence - 87.1%; Improve Controlling Anger - 87.06%; Increase Focus - 81.17%; Better Receive Discipline - 82.35%; Improve Grades - 94.12%.

III. Other Legislative Concerns of Council Members- None were shared during this meeting.

Funding Requested: _____

Noticed Meeting Date: _____

Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents to be Served: _____

Legislation Files Yes No

IV. Discussion of Proposed SJCIC Infrastructure

a. Septic Tank Phase Out List

Co-Chair Priestly Jackson spoke about the list of prioritized neighborhoods associated with the septic tank phase out, and said that for any changes to be made to that list it must happen through legislation.

CM Carlucci noted the importance of the phase out projects regardless of cost, and suggested that Mr. Pappas, Public Works, come back to the committee for a discussion on the issue.

CM Salem told the group that the TEU Committee will be having a presentation from

JEA about the priority ranking methodology at the next meeting and invited all interested parties to attend.

CM DeFoor commented on the potential for decreased costs for septic tank replacement, as technology has improved over the past few years.

CM Boylan spoke about the social and environmental impact of septic tank replacement on neighborhoods.

b. Other Infrastructure Project Recommendations

Co-Chair Priestly Jackson said that CP Hazouri may attend the next committee meeting to discuss infrastructure priorities.

CM Carlucci said that one idea might be to partner with DCPS on expanding sidewalk installation projects.

V. Miscellaneous Concerns

Mr. Pappas will return to present an update on the septic tank phase out at either the March 8th or 22nd meeting. Also the proposals for job programs will conclude in March and the committee will assess and vote upon which ones will be recommended to go to council. The assessment will utilize a scoring rubric based on all of the criteria discussed in previous meetings.

CM Boylan noted that council members have a good sense of the specific needs in their districts, and proposed possibly allocating CMs a percentage of discretionary funds to use for those district needs.

VI. Public Comment (if time permits)

Carnell Oliver spoke in support of the mentoring program, and about the need for the City to invest in people, not necessarily one day events/shindigs.

Stanley Scott talked about government ethics, Thurgood Marshall, and racial disparities in crime statistics.

Tracie Thornton said that community development is about more than money; emphasized the need for diversity on boards and commissions; spoke about blight, free job training, investing in affordable housing and parks, and the importance of public art.

The next Social Justice and Community Investment Committee meeting will be March 8, 2021 at 3:00 pm.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted: 2.24.2021 5:00 pm