

City of Jacksonville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 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: 3:02 pm Meeting Adjourned: 4:40 pm

Attendance:

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

Also: Council Member Gaffney; Peggy Sidman, Office of General Counsel; Phillip Peterson, Council Auditor's Office; Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

I. Introductions

CM Priestly Jackson welcomed the group and called for introductions. She also let her colleagues know that she had to depart early from the meeting and that Co-Chair Carlucci would take over in her absence.

II. SJCIC Jobs Initiatives, Other Proposals and Presentations
Application review and funding recommendations

CM Priestly Jackson listed the enacted legislation derived through the committee's work:

2020-733-E \$200,000 Mental Health Offender Program (Salem)

2020-758-E \$140,000 Teen Court (Carlucci)

2021-22-E \$200,000 JaxCareConnect Program (Boylan)

2021-23-E \$200,000 BOOST! (Newby)

2021-24-E \$200,000 Neighborhood Blight & Clean-up Pilot Program-Brentwood Neighborhood (DeFoor/White)

2021-52-E \$225,280 Clanzel Brown Park afterschool/summer programs (Pittman)

2021-82-E \$36,000 Safer Together Workshops (Morgan/Boylan)

(Total \$1,201,280)

CM Salem asked about SJCIC funds, and Philip Peterson, Council Auditor's Office, said there is slightly more than \$1.6 million remaining. Mr. Peterson explained that the funds exist until the end of the fiscal year (September 30) at which point they will be swept back into the General Fund. Peggy Sidman, Office of General Counsel, explained that if/when contracts are drafted for approved programs, the list of deliverables and measures of success must be clearly defined and the program itself must serve a public purpose. CM Priestly Jackson said that the committee will review each proposal and make recommendations.

Northside Coalition-Training Employment Opportunity Program

Funding request: \$146,020

This is a new program for 15 students, a 12 week course with industry certification in cyber security and fiber optics. It was unclear from the application if the funds requested would be for units of service or reimbursement, or how students would be selected for admission, or how the return on investment would be measured.

CM Boylan expressed concerns about the high cost per student, and about the committee making hasty decisions with a finite pot of money. CM DeFoor agreed about the unit cost, as did CM Newby. CM Newby also expressed misgivings about the program instructor subcontractors, who are from out of state rather than in Jacksonville.

The committee agreed that there is more information required to make a decision about this program, and no action was taken.

Save Our Sons-JEGs, Difference Makers, Menturn program

Funding request: \$292,918

This program is looking to expand with the SJCIC funds to serve 75 more students by hiring additional staff - a project director, assistant, case managers and security.

From their proposal it was not clear what the length of time of the program would be, or what the measureables would be or what the overhead costs are. Several CMs shared concerns about the budget items for benefits/retirement. CM Boylan said he would like there to be a student pre and post assessment to measure success and effectiveness.

CM Priestly Jackson departed at 3:37 pm.

Quench the Violence ReWork program

Funding request: \$225,000

This is a pilot program that will partner with BOOST and provide career pathway training/mentorship for 150 participants from high risk zip codes, aged 18-25, and who are unemployed, underemployed or justice involved. The committee members were positive about the number of youth served and the collaboration with BOOST. CM Newby said he is in full support of the program. CM DeFoor complimented the completeness of the proposal, which included deliverables, scope of services, measures of success, a detailed budget and list of community partners.

The committee voted 6-0 to proceed with drafting legislation for the program and CM Newby will coordinate with OGC about the contract terms.

First Coast Leadership Foundation Mentor to Thrive

Funding request: \$102,867

This mentoring with wraparound services program is looking to expand with SJCIC funds and the budget is comprised primarily of personnel/case manager costs and some costs for supplies. The committee members had questions about the duration of the program, the nature of the consultants listed in the budget.

CM DeFoor made a motion to support this program and the committee voted 6-0 to move into the drafting phase with OGC. CM Boylan will be the liaison for this legislation.

Community Revolution Festival

Funding request: \$62,000

This is a first time one day job fair and music event. CMs Boylan, White, DeFoor and Salem all agreed that funding events may not be in keeping with the committee's charge. From the application, it was not clear that the SJCIC funding would serve a public purpose, what the measures of success would be, and the list of deliverables was not clearly designated in the proposal. The committee opted to take no action on this proposal.

Black Expo

Funding request: \$50,000

This is a recurring multi day event, cancelled last year due to the pandemic. The members expressed concerns again about funding events. It was not clear from the proposed budget how exactly the SJCIC funds would be allocated. There was some consideration of providing funds, if it could be directed to one component of the event, like the teen summit.

CM DeFoor asked about the success in past years with connecting individuals with actual jobs, and she said that marketing events is outside the purview of the committee. There were also concerns with duplicating contributions from the Administration. It was decided that perhaps the funds for this event would be more appropriate if they came from the Mayor's Office as has happened in past years, rather

than from the SJCIC.

The committee opted to take no action on this proposal.

5000 Roles Models

Funding request: \$100,974

This is an existing program that is looking to expand to 13 more schools. The budget would cover the costs of formal dress attire for the participants. There were some concerns about the legality of funding a program implemented by DCPS, and about how the expense reporting would take place, and sustainability after SJCIC funds expire.

This meeting was noticed to end at 4:30 pm, so no further action could be made regarding this proposal. It will be discussed again at the next committee meeting in April.

Literacy Pros

Funding request \$20,000

There was no time to assess this proposal for this literacy awareness program. It will be discussed again at the next committee meeting in April.

III. Other Legislative Concerns of Council Members

Funding Requested: _____

Noticed Meeting Date: _____

Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents to be Served: _____

Legislation Files [] Yes [] No

None.

IV. Miscellaneous Concerns

None.

V. Public Comment (if time permits)

A representative from Youthworks Inc spoke about the mentor programs they offer.

Carnell Oliver talked about the need to use SJCIC funds wisely.

Stanley Scott expressed support for the Mentor to Thrive proposal.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted: 3.24.2021 5:00 pm