

City of Jacksonville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 10, 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: 3:04 pm Meeting Adjourned: 4:13 pm

Attendance:

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

Excused: CM White

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

I. Introductions

II. SJCIC Jobs Initiatives, Other Proposals, Presentations and Updates
□ Cindy Funkhouser, Sulzbacher Center

Cindy Funkhouser, David Kilcrease and Dr. Colleen Bell were in attendance to speak about the increased service proposal for the Mental Health Offender Program (MHOP). This is a pilot program that received \$200,000 in SJCIC funds, with a match from JSO, and was designed in response to the burden that mentally ill offenders place on the criminal justice system. MHOP is a jail diversion program for mentally ill misdemeanor offenders, intended to break the cycle of repeated misdemeanor arrests for mentally ill individuals and provide them the wrap-around support they need to successfully treat their mental illness and reintegrate back into the community. Wrap around services include: medical, dental, behavioral health, substance abuse, housing and intensive case management that connects them to stable income through either job counseling and training or SSI, SSDI, Medicare/Medicaid and other community services.

After 3 months in operation, MHOP has nine participants in the first cohort, and nine more in the pipeline. Many of the participants have acute mental health issues and require stabilization prior to being placed in housing. One individual was arrested 25 times in 2020, and 97 times since 2017. Preliminary data from the first three months indicate positive outcomes, with fewer arrests/days in jail for participants and placement in permanent or transitional housing (89% of the participants were previously homeless). Demographically, the participants to date are 78% Black, 11% white and 78% male.

The increased service funding request is \$133,800 to go towards 5 stabilization rooms at Sulzbacher, 4 MHOP offices and necessary furnishings, cell phones/laptops, a passenger van/fuel, travel training, and additional hours for psychiatry and case management staff. MHOP has assisted participants with enrolling and/or renewing SSDI benefits. Dr. Bell spoke about one gentleman who suffers from both mental health and intellectual disabilities, but is now making progress with building trust and taking his prescribed medications.

CM DeFoor spoke in support of the program and noted that it should be permanent.

Ms. Funkhouser indicated that they are also pursuing funds from JSO and DCF.

CM Priestly Jackson suggested that they gather letters of support from partners, such as the Public Defender, before the additional funding request goes before council.

The committee moved to support the request with a 6-0 hand vote, 5 in the affirmative in chambers and one (Boylan) via Zoom.

CM DeFoor spoke briefly about an amendment to the Blight pilot program sponsored by CM White and herself. The Neighborhood Blight and Clean-up Pilot Program is designed to create a successful road map with specific infrastructure investments and clean up assistance within the Brentwood neighborhood. The area has numerous active nuisance and boarded up cases, unsafe structures, cases of graffiti, and additional code enforcement concerns. With the high amounts of identified blighted structures, the pilot program intends to reduce crime and increase the residents' quality of life. CM DeFoor initially wanted to extend the program to include a park in the area, but after consulting with Daryl Joseph, Director of Parks, he identified a different location with greater needs, Mary Lena Gibbs Park, which is not in Brentwood but is

located in CD 10. CM Priestly Jackson noted that she was not aware of the park selection prior to the meeting, since it is in her district she did not want the appearance of impropriety. Mr. Joseph approximated that the park updates would be \$100,000 and CM DeFoor will coordinate with him on the project. The committee moved to support the increased project proposal 5-0, 4 in chambers and CM Boylan via Zoom.

CM Newby asked about one of the proposals received previously, for the Community Revolution Festival. CM Priestly Jackson said that no new proposals are being accepted and because that organization did not attend any of the April meetings, the window for the application has closed.

III. Other Legislative Concerns and SJCIC Legislation
Funding Requested _____
Noticed Meeting Date _____
Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents to be Served _____
Legislation Filed [] Yes [] No

IV. SJCIC Budget and Balance

Phillip Peterson, Auditor's Office, discussed the SJCIC project tracking list and fund balance. To date, 8 bills have been approved by council, 2 are pending in the bill cycle and 4 are in the contract drafting stages. Roughly \$1.9 million has been either appropriated or earmarked for these projects.

CM Salem asked about how to decide about using the remaining funds. CM Priestly Jackson said that it would be decided at the May 24th meeting. CM Carlucci suggested getting input from CP Hazouri about the leftover funds, or directing it to KHA. CM Priestly Jackson indicated that it would be more in keeping with the committee's charge if the remaining funds went to support the projects already selected or roll over into the next fiscal year.

V. SJCIC Final Report (Proposed Date: June 14, 2021)

CM Priestly Jackson said that the final committee report will be completed in June. CM Salem asked about project monitoring and organizational reports. It was noted that each organization could provide an interim status update, even if the project has not yet begun.

VI. Miscellaneous Concerns

CM Boylan said that at the next meeting representatives from JaxCare Connect will attend to possibly discuss increased funding.

VII. Public Comment (if time permits)

Mr. Brickell spoke on behalf of Jax Youth Works, who did not receive funding because they did not attend the last meeting or submit a revised application within the deadline.

Mr. Scott expressed his frustration with various parts of City government.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research
CHampsey@coj.net 904.255.5151
Posted: 5.13.2021 5:00 pm