



Social Justice and Community Investment Special Committee

Final Report
June 22, 2021

Committee Members

CM Michael Boylan
CM Randy DeFoor
CM Sam Newby
CM Ron Salem
CM Randy White
CM Matt Carlucci Co-Chair
CM Brenda Priestly Jackson Co-Chair

Special Committee on Social Justice and Community Investment Committee Meetings

June 22, 2020

July 27, 2020

August 10, 2020

August 24, 2020

September 28, 2020

October 12, 2020

October 26, 2020

December 7, 2020

January 11, 2021

January 25, 2021

February 22, 2021

March 8, 2021

March 22, 2021

April 12, 2021

April 26, 2021

May 10, 2021

May 24, 2021

June 14, 2021

Legislation

2020-733-E Mental Health Offender Pilot Program \$200,000

2020-758-E Teen Court \$140,000

2021-23-E BOOST! \$200,000

2021-52-E Clanzel T. Brown Park \$225,280

2021-24-E Brentwood Blight \$200,000

2021-22-E Jax Care Connect \$200,000

2021-82-E Safer Together Workshops \$36,000

2021-256-E Black Expo \$50,000

2021-288-E Mentoring 2 Thrive \$102,867

2021-291-E BOOST! Amendment \$100,000

Legislation Pending

2021-317 MHOP Amendment \$133,800

2021-318 Quench the Violence \$225,000

2021-321 Mary Lena Gibbs Community Center \$98,848

2021-322 5000 Role Models \$100,974

2021-351 Literacy Pros \$20,000

2021-353 Save Our Sons \$150,000

2021-379 Jax Care Connect Amendment \$51,000

2021-382 Historic Stanton Building \$300,000

2021-383 Hilltop Apartments Emergency Assistance \$140,399

Social Justice and Community Investment Committee Summary

The Social Justice and Community Investment Committee (SJCIC) was created by City Council President Tommy Hazouri to address continuing disparities in Jacksonville and serve as a clearinghouse for all ideas, policies and legislation pertaining to three main areas: i) social injustices; ii) law enforcement; and, iii) economic development, namely employment, education and infrastructure issues. The committee was co-chaired by CM Brenda A. Priestly Jackson (Chair of the Rules Committee) and CM Matt Carlucci (Chair of the Finance Committee) and the other committee members were CM Sam Newby (Vice President of the City Council), CM Randy DeFoor (Vice Chair of the Finance Committee), CM Randy White (Chair of the NCPHS Committee), CM Ron Salem (Chair of the TEU Committee), and CM Michael Boylan (Chair of the LUZ Committee).

In service to the over 957,755 neighbors who reside in Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida, including the 51.5% who are females, 48.5% who are males, the 215,495 children, 138,874 who are 65 years of age and older, ethno-racially diverse and 15% who are at or below the federal poverty level, the SJCIC focused on the needs of our neighbors consistent with the charge of the committee.

The SJCIC held 18 meetings over the course of the last calendar year and Council Members hosted one-on-one meetings to address specific issues included in the charge of the SJCIC, namely in the areas of employment, education and mentorship, infrastructure, neighborhood blight and parks, healthcare access, mental health and wellness and children's services. The SJCIC Members, Council Members and diverse community members introduced and sponsored legislation focused on the charge of the SJCIC and supported funding priorities in excess of \$2.85 million.

Furthermore, consistent with the charge of the SJCIC, the Council President Hazouri established the "Safer Together Workshops" to focus on community policing, policies, procedures and budgeting. The SJCIC supported the legislation and funding to support the work of the Safer Together Workshops and unique issues of policing and community needs.

Upon the submission of this report of the SJCIC, it is the committee's fervent hope that the work and service of the SJCIC will help foster equity, justice and future funding priorities with legislation to support all neighbors in Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida.

Peace,

Co-Chair CM Brenda Priestly Jackson

Note: With great deliberation and process, the SJCIC recommended appropriation of \$2,674,168 for programs satisfying the purpose designated by the Council President for the committee. SJCIC Committee recommends that the remaining \$150,000 be appropriated by recommendation of Council President Newby and Council Member Gaffney, who made the suggestion of the source of funds.

Ordinance Number: 2020-733-E **Mental Health Offender Program (MHOP)**

Sponsor: CM Salem

City Council Standing Committees Assigned: Finance, NCSPHS, Rules

Date Passed by City Council: December 8, 2020

Funding Amount: \$200,000 (with match from JSO)

Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents Served: 20-40 repeat misdemeanor offenders with mental health issues

Narrative of Legislation: This is a nine month pilot program designed in response to the burden that mentally ill offenders place on the criminal justice system. MHOP is a jail diversion program for misdemeanor offenders with mental health issues, intended to break the cycle of repeated misdemeanor arrests and provide them the wrap-around support they need to successfully treat their 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. MHOP is a partnership between COJ, JSO, SAO, Public Defender, Duval Courts, and the Sulzbacher Center.

Testimonial of Neighbor Served: “We are very excited about the preliminary success of the Mental Health Offender Program pilot. As we look to the future and as we learn from our friends in Miami we seek to improve on our model as we go along. The amazing success that they have achieved in Miami happened over many years, our goal is to replicate that success here in Jacksonville. This is an extremely challenging clientele, some of the most vulnerable people in our community. We are already seeing these people’s lives change for the better in the short time this project has been in operation and that has been very gratifying.” - Cindy Funkhouser, CEO Sulzbacher

Amendment to Legislation, if any, funding and rationale: Additional funding amendment 2021-317

Any other notable facts: Nationwide, jails and prisons have become the largest psychiatric facilities in most states. It is estimated that there are nearly 14 times as many people with mental illnesses in jails and prisons in the United States as there are in all state psychiatric hospitals combined. The goal is to provide the participant with the tools necessary for successful transition from this program to independence and avoiding future arrest.

Reporting Requirement: Monthly reporting of outcomes by Sulzbacher to City Council Opioid and Mental Health Task Force; Monthly reporting of outcomes by Courts to City - Office of Grants and Contract Compliance.

Ordinance Number: 2020-758-E Teen Court

Sponsor: CM Carlucci

City Council Standing Committees Assigned: Finance, NCSPHS, Rules

Date Passed by City Council: January 26, 2021

Funding Amount: \$140,000

Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents Served: County wide initiative providing at-risk youthful offenders the opportunity to bypass the traditional juvenile court process, thereby eliminating or minimizing a damaging criminal record. Additional funding will allow for greater overall reach of target population.

Narrative of Legislation: The Social Justice and Community Investment Committee's goal is to further equal access and opportunity for all citizens of Jacksonville and to strive to establish programs and policies which serve to eradicate systemic bias. Teen Court is a juvenile diversion program based on the philosophy that youthful offenders are less likely to re-offend when punishment is decided by a jury of their peers. The Council approved \$140,000 to Teen Court to add 2.5 additional counselors to support the initiative's efforts, aligning with the overall goal of the committee. Additional Case Managers will allow the program to operate at a higher capacity.

Testimonial of Neighbors Served:

"I want to thank the people that put together this program for me and to help teens. It increases my knowledge of the law as I grow up in my life. I look forward to finishing the teen court program and successfully achieving my goals as a young woman. It's the help, support and dedication I needed to stay on track." - K.G (current participant)

"I have learned a lot about the things I value and what should and shouldn't be of importance to me. I've learned better ways to convey my feelings without using aggression and violence. Most importantly, I've learned that a positive attitude with help no matter the situation. I enjoyed working with the less fortunate and helping them through my required service hours because it made me feel accomplished and helpful to my community. Overall, I'd say having to go through this program was a blessing in disguise."
(anonymous program graduate via survey)

"The aspect I found to be most helpful was having supportive figures to help me through this time. I loved having a counselor to talk to so I could get everything off my chest. Being able to reflect on my bad decisions has helped me to improve myself for the better and also to realize who I should and shouldn't be hanging around. I am thankful for this opportunity to change."
(anonymous program graduate via survey)

"I would like to share the impact that the teen court program has had on me and my son. My son was charged with battery May 2021 and as a result had to attend the teen court program under Case Manager OD. Case Manager OD advised us on all his sanctions that needed to be turned in to complete the program. Case Manager OD ALWAYS made herself available and extremely helpful, basically guiding us through each step and making sure we worked as a team to get QN where he needs to be. Case Manager OD also gave us multiple options of turning in all assignments working with me and my son to

make sure WE were successful. Without the teen court program my son would have been arrested, handcuffed and transported to JAIL at the age of 15 and he is severely disabled. I have no doubt in my mind that without the teen court program acting as the middle man things would have ended much differently. The teen court program and people like Case Manager OD are extremely important to help save our youth and to provide our children with the best option in their best interest and the teen court program does that effectively! Thank you all for all the hard work and dedication and patience you showed me and my son. We are forever grateful!” (Anonymous parent of teen court participant)

Amendment to Legislation, if any, funding, and rationale: N/A

Any other notable facts: From 2016 to 2019, referrals increased from 351 to 696 youth referred, a 68% increase in the number of referrals received by Teen Court. However, there has not been an increase in funding to provide additional case managers to oversee the cases. Based upon current trends, there will be an annual estimated increase in referrals of 35 youth. The \$140,000 being requested will fund two full-time case managers and one part-time case manager. Any remaining funds will be used to purchase sessions of specialized counseling modalities.

Since the funding was awarded, 2.5 additional case managers have been hired and trained in the Teen Court department. Each case manager received comprehensive training on intensive case management techniques to address the Teen Court youth and their needs. The case managers have completed intakes and are currently working with 33 youth who have received civil citations for misdemeanor crimes in lieu of being arrested. These youth are assessed individually and receive the following services at no cost based upon their individual needs: substance abuse counseling, mental health counseling, mentoring, Nurturing Parenting class, SAVVY class, Diversion classes and tutoring. In addition, the youth are required to complete educational sanctions such as book reports, essays, various offense-based workbooks and attending *Know the Law* classes. The youth are also involved in restorative-based sanctions such as community service, writing apology letters to victims, paying restitution and writing thank you letters to the law enforcement officers. The case managers maintain constant contact with the youth and families to ensure that needed services are provided and there are no barriers to their completion of all sanctions. The case managers provide encouragement and support during their time of learning and growth in Teen Court. The funding has also enabled program participants and their families to receive 57 hours of family coaching at no cost. This service entails a professional family coach entering the home and working one on one with struggling families to work towards families developing skills to ensure a more harmonious and healthy family structure.

Reporting Requirement: Monthly reporting of outcomes by Courts to KHA.

Ordinance Number: 2021-23-E **BOOST!**

Sponsor: CM Newby

City Council Standing Committees Assigned: Finance, NCSPHS, Rules

Date Passed by City Council: February 23, 2021

Funding Amount: \$200,000

Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents Served: Students who face barriers to employment, 18-35 (target) but open to all who qualify.

Narrative of Legislation: 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.

Testimonial of Neighbor Served: Pilot program

Amendment to Legislation, if any, funding and rationale: Additional funding amendment 2021-291

Any other notable facts: The program rollout was successful and more than 100 participants have applied through FSCJ and Workforce Industrial Training has a waiting list for admission.

Reporting Requirement: Monthly reporting by WIT on outcomes; Monthly reporting by FSCJ on performance - Office of Grants and Contract Compliance.

Ordinance Number: 2021-52-E Clanzel T. Brown Park Youth Programs

Sponsor: CM Pittman

City Council Standing Committees Assigned: Finance, NCSPHS, Rules

Date Passed by City Council: February 23, 2021

Funding Amount: \$225,800

Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents Served: Low income families in District 8

Narrative of Legislation: One time funding request for youth afterschool and summer programs at Clanzel T. Brown Park located at 4575 Moncrief Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32209. The programs will serve youth ages 6-18 from 2:30pm-7pm M-F and will run congruent with the DCPS School Calendar. The Club would host a Summer Camp for 6 Weeks M-F 8am to 5pm (dates TBD). There are currently not enough youth programs in the area to meet the needs of the community. The curriculum will include academics, as well as sports, arts, wellness and social-emotional learning.

Testimonial of Neighbor Served:

Amendment to Legislation, if any, funding and rationale: Additional funding amendment

Any other notable facts: Academics will be led by Certified Teachers and Youth Development Professionals. Enrichment will be led by Youth Development Professionals focusing on the BGCNF Core Areas- Sports & Recreation, Education, The Arts, Health & Wellness, and Leadership and Service.

Reporting Requirement: Annual report on operation of community center and park; Monthly reporting to KHA on afterschool program outcomes.

Ordinance Number: 2021-24-E **Brentwood Neighborhood Blight and Clean-up Pilot Program**

Sponsors: CMs DeFoor and White

City Council Standing Committees Assigned: Finance, NCSPHS

Date Passed by City Council: February 23, 2021

Funding Amount: \$200,000

Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents Served: Brentwood Neighborhood, families, students, and community members

Narrative of Legislation: The purpose of the Neighborhood Blight and Clean –up pilot program is to create a successful road map with specific investments of infrastructure and clean up assistance in a neighborhood with high amounts of identified blighted structures to result in a reduction of crime and an increase in quality of life for the residents. This program will bring together existing City Departments, Municipal Code Compliance (MCC), 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, a higher quality of life, and a tracked and proven reduction in crime.

MCC has identified the Brentwood neighborhood as a candidate for the pilot program. Brentwood has 50 active nuisance and board up cases, 16 unsafe structures, cases of graffiti, and additional code enforcement concerns. MCC is prepared to provide cutting and clearing of overgrowth to brighten up the neighborhood. These services will be provided by Jacksonville Small and Emerging Businesses. Public Works will apply a Street Light Analysis and work with Jacksonville Sherriff’s Office to incorporate their recommendations on how to engineer the environment to deter crime. This may include LED lights, shaping existing trees canopies to allow for more light, and increased maintenance of sidewalks for increased visibility. The City departments and the Jacksonville Sherriff’s Office leveraging their resources and expertise with this funding will allow for a greater impact and successful program.

The Council Members hosted two public meetings in advance of the program start. Additional funding may be requested with program success for other City neighborhoods.

Testimonial of Neighbor Served: “This will bring the neighborhood back, will invite more businesses to return to the community, job opportunities, more services, increase the unfair home and value market value. We owe all of you a taste of gratitude for your commitment to serve the needs of an urban core neighborhood.” – Sharon Coon, neighbor since 1980

Amendment to Legislation, if any, funding and rationale: Additional funding amendment N/A

Any other notable facts: Municipal Code Compliance conducted a systematic inspection in the Brentwood neighborhood which resulted in 627 enforcement cases. The follow up inspections will be conducted in the upcoming weeks. 2 demolitions have been completed in the Brentwood neighborhood under this program. An additional 12 active demolitions, 2 have been released to the contractors to begin their preparations for demolition. JSEB contractors were used for the Blight removal and ROW Cleanup in Brentwood. The awarded amount was \$28, 620.00. Public Works identified the need for additional street lights. They added 75 lights to existing poles and installed an additional 5 poles with lights to

improve visibility and safety for vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclist. The Public Works department identified safety concerns where additional or replacement stop signs were needed, these were replaced immediately. Sidewalk repairs have been identified for 19 locations and added to the repair queue. Ongoing Code Municipal Code enforcement cases include:

Commercial	12
Junk Vehicle	82
Nuisance	413
Board Up	10
Graffiti	8
Tree	3
Residential	78
Unsafe Structure	16
Zoning	5
	627

Reporting Requirement: Report upon project completion.

Ordinance Number: 2021-22 Jax Care Connect

Sponsor: CM Boylan

City Council Standing Committees Assigned: Finance, NCSPHS, Rules

Date Passed by City Council: February 23, 2021

Funding Amount: \$200,000

Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents Served: The 15.7% of the adult population or roughly 150,000 citizens who have no health insurance and therefore limited access to ongoing health care.

Narrative of Legislation: The program is a collaboration of the six-area free or charitable health care clinics with We Care Jacksonville serving as the administrative hub with the goal of providing every resident of Duval County access to high quality, comprehensive healthcare regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. The goal of the pilot program is to capture 2,000 patients via a consolidated intake and referral online system and pair them up with both patient care advocates to help address their immediate needs and subsequently with transition care managers so as to assure the have access to ongoing health care services. Given that the collaborative had already secured nearly \$350,000 in private sector dollars this additional funding is assisting in building the capacity of the six clinics to meet their pending service needs, the adoption of a shared, electronic health records system and the hiring of an additional patient care advocate.

Testimonial of Neighbor Served: I am Vanessa Bedoya, daughter of Maria V Bedoya and wanted to extend to you our most genuine gratitude for assisting us in the process of qualifying for the UF Health Card for my mom. After meeting with Ms. Jackson during our visit to Mass Clinic on 4/16, (during which we began the application process for assistance) we were clearly instructed on the next steps to take and upon reporting for our appointment on 4/22 with UF Health Financial Services we found that the process was quick and practically seamless thanks in large part to the work that Ms. Jackson had already done in the background by assisting in completion of the application and also advocating for our case! Thanks to her help we were able to be granted coverage for my mom and obtain access to care for her right away. By the end of this appointment, we left feeling incredibly blessed and grateful to Ms. Jackson for all her efforts, for walking us through the application, giving great explanations and advice and also her empathy throughout the process, not to mention her wonderful follow-up and staying connected with us and willingness to answer questions. Your help has been immensely valuable and we thank you again for helping us to access this incredible opportunity!

Amendment to Legislation, if any, funding and rationale: Following on the support of the SJCIC Committee, an amendment has been filed for an additional \$51,000 to We Care Jacksonville for the hiring of a full time administrative/marketing coordinator and some additional IT upgrades.

Reporting Requirement: Quarterly reporting by We Care on outcomes - Office of Grants and Contract Compliance.

Ordinance Number: 2021-82 Safer Together Workshops Facilitator Contract

Sponsor: CMs Boylan and Morgan

City Council Standing Committees Assigned: Finance

Date Passed by City Council: February 23, 2021

Funding Amount: \$36,000

Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents Served: The purpose of the Safer Together workshop initiative was to provide a forum for constituents from across the city and particularly those who harbor distrust of the JSO and its policies relating specifically to community policing practices.

Narrative of Legislation (include if it's a pilot program and if additional funding maybe sought in the future): \$23,000 of the appropriated funds were to allow the committee chairs the opportunity retain facilitators steeped in the experience of engaging police departments and the communities they serve. The balance of funds was to be used for travel, Honoraria, etc. Given all but our last meeting was virtual little (if any) of those funds have been expended. To date there have been eight meetings in total. The first was an organizational meeting and the rest were community workshops facilitated by Drs. Tammy Hodo and Brian Van Brunt. Each session involved JSO senior management, led by Director Michael Bruno, and a number of department/program heads. On average there were approximately 40 citizens attending each meeting. There was a broad array of topics discussed under the following headings:

- Community Engagement Programs
- incidents involving those exhibiting mental and/or behavioral health issues
- Use of force training
- Operating budget (as compared to comparable sized cities)
- The prospect of establishing a civilian incident review board
- Officer supervision & discipline

Testimonial of Neighbor Served: “In each of the Safer Together Workshops, the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office was given the opportunity to showcase the great work being done by our men and women in a wide variety of areas. Every meeting provided an opportunity to share information and to engage in rich dialogue with the citizens and the facilitators that stretched and challenged our processes as well as our understanding of the concerns of those we are so proud to serve. The perspectives that were shared and gained throughout the workshops will be invaluable as JSO continues to work and serve our community.”

- Director Michael Bruno, Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office

Amendment to Legislation, if any, funding and rationale: Presently we are awaiting a report (with recommendations) from the facilitators and will be hosting one or two more community workshops before submitting any recommendations we may have to forward to the Council. In the likely event we may decide to extend beyond we may look to use the unexpended dollars to retain the facilitators for additional workshops.

Any other notable facts: Due in part to the delayed delivery of the consultants' report and recommendations plus the fact that Director Bruno is indisposed until June 21st, we will not be able to present our report and recommendations to the full Council until the first full Council meeting in July (at the earliest.)

Reporting Requirement: Final report on results and recommendations due June 28, 2021 – City Council.

Ordinance Number: 2021-256-E **2021 Florida Black Expo Spring Empowerment Summit**

Sponsor: CM Carlucci

City Council Standing Committees Assigned: Finance, NCSPHS, Rules

Date Passed by City Council: May 11, 2021

Funding Amount: \$50,000

Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents Served: City-wide

Narrative of Legislation: 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.

Testimonial of Neighbor Served: “The Florida Black Expo's Inaugural FBX Spring Empowerment Summit held Friday and Saturday, May 21-22, 2020 was a resounding success. Attended by over 300 participants in spite of a large number of competing events (Amazon & Food Distributions) the attendees left bigger, bolder and better than ever. The In-Person Job Fair hosted 21 companies and 7 virtual companies with our partner CareerSource Northeast Florida. Companies included VyStar Credit Union, US Army Jacksonville Recruiting Battalion, various City of Jacksonville departments/agencies and even a new restaurant, Ken's Kitchen, looking for 6 employees needed for their opening in June. To date we have been informed of 4 employment offers made. We will continue to follow-up with employers to track successful hires from the Summit. Teens enjoyed a day of skill building, career exploration and got their own headshot photo just like the business owners. Our small business owners experienced in-depth training in growth strategies, financing opportunities, marketing and encouragement from community business leaders such as Andre Wallace, President JAXUSA Partnership, Erica Perkins, Sales Manager iHeart Radio/Media, Allie Braswel, Vice President of Cultural Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at VyStar Credit Union and more. The Friday Kick-Off and business networking opportunity, sponsored by Florida Blue and hosted by Bentley Jacksonville, was attended by 170 community leaders and small business owners.”-Suzy Jackson, Pollock Group

Amendment to Legislation, if any, funding and rationale: Additional funding amendment N/A

Any other notable facts: These events address the Social Justice and Community Investment Committee's goal of equal access and opportunity for all citizens by concentrating its efforts on the Committee's third main area of focus - (iii) economic development (which encompasses employment, education, and infrastructure issues).

Reporting Requirement: Final report on outcomes due within 45 days of event.

Ordinance Number: 2021-288-E **Mentoring 2 Thrive**

Sponsor: CM Boylan

City Council Standing Committees Assigned: Finance, NCSPHS, Rules

Date Passed by City Council: June 8, 2021

Funding Amount: \$102,867

Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents Served: 64 students enrolled

Narrative of Legislation: This mentoring program offers a holistic approach with wrap-around referral services to the families of mentees and community-based resources where case managers recruit, monitor, document, and nurture mentor-mentee relationships. Mentoring 2 Thrive focuses upon the systemic issues community members face daily, such as racial identity, violence, sexual behaviors, tobacco usage, substance abuse, unhealthy dietary behaviors, inadequate physical activity, criminal incarceration, strained parent-child relationships, lack of social connectedness, and limited support.

Testimonial of Neighbor Served: 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%

Amendment to Legislation, if any, funding and rationale: Additional funding amendment N/A

Any other notable facts: One of the risk factors that our mentoring program will address is “absence of fathers” in the home, as it is costing our communities, and the nation at-large, billions of dollars. In addition, fatherless homes contribute to the increase in dependence on state and federal systems for economic support and social services. Mentor programs fill gaps that lead to youth to experience unnecessary negative interaction with the criminal justice’s system

Reporting Requirement: Monthly reporting of outcomes to KHA.

Ordinance Number: 2021-291-E **BOOST! Amendment**

Sponsor: CM Newby

City Council Standing Committees Assigned: Finance, Rules

Date Passed by City Council: June 8, 2021

Funding Amount: \$100,000

Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents Served: Students who face barriers to employment, 18-35 (target) but open to all who qualify.

Narrative of Legislation: The additional funds for the Operation Boost! program which will provide educational opportunities for underserved populations facing barriers to employment to have a career with a living wage. The Operation Boost! program will provide recruitment, training and employment assistance to low-income students and students who face barriers to employment. \$50,000 in additional funding will be used by WIT to provide cost free training to students who face barriers to employment and recidivism. \$50,000 in additional funding will be used by FSCJ to create scholarships for low-income students.

Testimonial of Neighbor Served: CVP Newby shared that the first cohort had completed training through the Workforce Industrial Training program funded through his BOOST! legislation. He reported that all 9 graduates have been hired for full time jobs with benefits.

Amendment to Legislation, if any, funding and rationale: Additional funding amendment N/A

Any other notable facts:

Reporting Requirement: Monthly reporting by WIT on outcomes; Monthly reporting by FSCJ on performance – Office of Grants and Contract Compliance.

Ordinance Number: 2021-317 MHOP Amendment

Sponsor: CM Salem

City Council Standing Committees Assigned: Finance, NCSPHS, Rules

Date Passed by City Council: In committee

Funding Amount: \$133,800

Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents Served: 20-40 repeat misdemeanor offenders with mental health issues

Narrative of Legislation: The Mental Health Offender Program is a jail diversion program for misdemeanor offenders with mentally illnesses, it includes case management wrap around services, housing, transportation, and communication needs, and is managed by the Sulzbacher Center. The additional funds will go towards more comprehensive care/services for a target population with extremely acute mental health needs, to include 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.

Testimonial of Neighbor Served: Sulzbacher psychiatrist, Dr. Colleen Bell, provided MHOP cost saving statistics for two of the MHOP clients: in 2020 one was arrested 25 times, spent 90 days in jail, had numerous Baker Act evaluations/holds which cost the City \$66,583.50; another MHOP client in 2020 one was arrested 18 times, spent 142 days in jail, had numerous Baker Act evaluations/holds which cost the City \$62,405.52. Dr. Bell noted that saving tax payer's money is positive, but other aspects of the program's success are more difficult to measure/quantify. For example, 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. Other clients are moving towards housing placement, getting stabilized on medications and reinstated with public benefits and health care.

Amendment to Legislation, if any, funding and rationale: Additional funding amendment N/A

Any other notable facts: There are currently 12 MHOP participants in the program, and 7 more potential participants being evaluated. 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).

Reporting Requirement: Monthly reporting of outcomes by Sulzbacher to City Council Opioid and Mental Health Task Force; Monthly reporting of outcomes by Courts to City - Office of Grants and Contract Compliance.

Ordinance Number: 2021-318 **Quench the Violence - ReWork**

Sponsor: CM Newby

City Council Standing Committees Assigned: Finance, NCSPHS, Rules

Date Passed by City Council: In committee

Funding Amount: \$225,000

Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents Served: The total number of individuals (18-24 year olds in high risk zip codes) served is expected to be 150.

Narrative of Legislation: The Quench the Violence ReWork program, will equip unemployed, underemployed and justice involved young adults in Jacksonville who have aged out of public education (18 to 25) with the personal, psycho-social and self-awareness skills, training and credentials to excel in obtaining a sustainable career pathway as productive citizens in our community. The program will also provide wrap-around services for justice involved and unemployed/underemployed residents of Jacksonville, ages 18 to 25. The goal is to provide a clear professional and career pathway resulting in the 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.

Testimonial of Neighbor Served: Pilot program

Amendment to Legislation, if any, funding and rationale: Additional funding amendment N/A

Any other notable facts: Will be a partner to the BOOST! Program. Other 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.

Reporting Requirement: Monthly reporting on performance to City - Office of Grants and Contract Compliance.

Ordinance Number: 2021-0321 **Mary Lena Gibbs Park Community Investment Project**

Sponsor: CM DeFoor

City Council Standing Committees Assigned: Finance, NCSPHS

Date Passed by City Council: In Committee

Funding Amount: \$98,848

Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents Served: District 10 neighbors, families, students, and community members

Narrative of Legislation: The purpose of the Mary Lena Gibbs Park Community Investment Project is to make a strategic investment in the Mary Lena Gibbs Park located in the Sweetwater/Cedar Hills Estates area of southwest Jacksonville by installing a new play structure. 51-57% of neighbors in this area are below LMI (Low to Moderate Income). Last year local artist Nicole Holderbaum and her friends painted a beautiful mural on the city basketball court-turned-skate park. A new play structure would complement the new paint and skate park by making it a captivating space that beckons the entire family to play, sit, to observe, and to stay a while. The Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department has identified this park as a good candidate for the investment. The Department will oversee the design and installation of the play structure.

No additional funding is requested.

Testimonial of Neighbor Served: “I recently became Pastor of Sweetwater Church of Christ and one of the things I’ve noticed early on was the conditions of the community facilities. Parents need a place where they can trust their kids to go and be safe and enjoy themselves that’s nearby, as well as the older kids need a place to play and hang out with their friends. We as a church would be most grateful for it because it would give us a place to take our youth to have different activities.” -Sweet Water Church of Christ, Pastor Trevonte Peterson, direct neighbor

Amendment to Legislation, if any, funding and rationale: N/A

Any other notable facts:

Reporting Requirement: The Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department will oversee the project.

Ordinance Number: 2021-322 **5000 Role Models**

Sponsor: CM Salem

City Council Standing Committees Assigned: Finance, NCSPHS, Rules

Date Passed by City Council: In committee

Funding Amount: \$100,974

Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents Served: minority, male middle and high school students. The following criteria are considered for student selection: The student needs a positive male role model in their life; The student has exhibited leadership skills that need to be developed; The student is eligible for free or reduced lunch; The student has a record of involvement with a social service system; A member of the immediate family has been incarcerated (or member of the household); The head of household is a single parent; The head of household is not a custodial parent; A teacher, counselor, social worker, or community-based service organization recommends the student.

Narrative of Legislation: The funds for the 5000 Role Models of Excellence project will provide uniforms and transportation. 5000 Role Models of Excellence offers positive visions of success through positive adult role models, mentorship and exposure. Key program components: Weekly Meetings with Site Directors, Mentoring, Leadership Development, Career Exploration & Job Shadowing, Cultural Exposure, College Tours.

Testimonial of Neighbor Served: Students in the program have increased their GPAs, decreased their behavior referrals and improved chances of promotion. In the 2019-20 school year: 74% of members had an increase in overall grade point average; 81% of members had a decrease in or had no behavioral referrals; 96% of members were promoted to the next grade level; Six graduating seniors of the class of 2020 received a \$1,000 transitional college scholarship.

Amendment to Legislation, if any, funding and rationale: Additional funding amendment N/A

Any other notable facts: This is an existing program looking to expand to 13 more schools. 5000 Role Models began in Miami in 1993 to address and end the pattern of minority boys being incarcerated, entering the drug trade, or dropping out of school at disproportionately high rates. It launched in Duval County in 2015 with the mission to connect students to positive adult role models whose successes can inspire them to achieve. Expected outcomes include: improved academic performance, reduced truancy, fewer referrals and suspensions, and increased pathways to success through mentoring and diverse experiences. The young men wear white shirts, black dress pants & shoes with signature neck ties. The ties are red, representing power and are imprinted with the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project logo (a small hand, representing “young men of promise” next to a large hand, representing the positive adult role model.)

Reporting Requirement: Monthly reporting on outcomes to KHA.

Ordinance Number: 2021-351 **Literacy Pros of Jacksonville #YRead**

Sponsor: CM DeFoor

City Council Standing Committees Assigned: Finance, NCSPHS, Rules

Date Passed by City Council: In committee

Funding Amount: \$20,000

Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents Served: Campaign focused on Middle and high school students throughout Duval County, particularly in zip codes 32209, 32208, 32210, 32206, and 32218.

Narrative of Legislation: Since 2003, Literacy Pros of Jacksonville, Inc. has been striving to eradicate illiteracy. The purpose of this legislation is to provide funds for Literacy Pros of Jacksonville, Inc. to implement #YRead, a marketing, outreach and engagement campaign featuring local Jacksonville youth promoting reading, literacy and positive educational choices and behaviors. #YRead will include: Two Billboards in high crime areas of Jacksonville (Golfair & Haines) for the period of August 2021 to January 2022; 50 posters in Middle & High Schools, City libraries, City offices, Community based organizations, and Juvenile diversion and corrections programs; Teen Youth Literacy Ambassador representatives at area high schools, with a focus on specific high crime zip codes. The impact of #YRead will be measured by the number of youth arrests six months prior to the billboards and six months after the billboards and a youth survey.

Testimonial of Neighbor Served: N/A

Amendment to Legislation, if any, funding and rationale: Additional funding amendment N/A

Any other notable facts: Research indicates a relationship between illiteracy and incarceration, 70% of all incarcerated adults cannot read at a 4th grade level, 85% of all juveniles who interface with the juvenile courts are functionally low literate. The newly formed Literacy Pros Youth Leadership Council is student created and student led, and works to support and promote youth literacy in our community.

Reporting Requirement: Monthly reporting on performance - Office of Public Affairs.

Ordinance Number: 2021-353 **Operation Save Our Sons MenTurn Program**

Sponsor: CM Newby

City Council Standing Committees Assigned: Finance, NCSPHS, Rules

Date Passed by City Council: In committee

Funding Amount: \$150,000

Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents Served: 100 at risk young men, ages 15-18

Narrative of Legislation: The MenTurn Program will serve 100 young men, ages 15-18, from August 1, 2021 to July 31, 2022 through mentorship, career exploration, and character building, on a weekly and continual basis for a 12 month period. This program creates a partnership between several local organizations, and was founded by Dr John Guns to inspire at risk males to strive for excellence for the sake of their personal future, the community, and the country. The Operation Save Our Sons MenTurn initiative 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.

Testimonial of Neighbor Served: Operation Save Our Sons seeks to empower each young man to believe in themselves, and to pursue the highest standard of existence possible.

Amendment to Legislation, if any, funding and rationale: Additional funding amendment N/A

Any other notable facts: Through strategic partnerships and the strengths of the individual child, MenTurn 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. The program's intent is to adequately prepare young men with life skills that will increase the number of graduating seniors, encourage post-secondary education, and promote both job training and armed forces entrance. These concepts may in turn reduce arrest and incarceration (both which have a dramatic effect on tax payers), as well as relieve additional economic burdens imposed on our communities in regards to the criminal justice system.

Reporting Requirement: Monthly reporting on outcomes to KHA.

Ordinance Number: 2021-379 Jax Care Connect Amendment

Sponsor: CM Boylan

City Council Standing Committees Assigned: Finance, NCSPHS, Rules

Date Passed by City Council: In committee

Funding Amount: \$51,000

Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents Served:

Narrative of Legislation: Through 2021-22-E, Jax Care Connect received \$200,000 from the Social Justice and Community Investment Special Committee Contingency. As the program has developed, they have hired a full time administrator, 2 patient advocates, and identified a third party evaluator (UNF's CCI). To date they have processed health care referrals for 72 clients, with the majority of referrals coming from the Baptist Emergency Department. Negotiations are in the works to coordinate with more emergency departments, and post advertising promotions in JTA buses etc. Jax Care Connect is requesting \$51,000 in additional funding for an administrative marketing coordinator and technology tools to extend capacity and reach of the program.

Testimonial of Neighbor Served:

Amendment to Legislation, if any, funding and rationale: Additional funding amendment

Any other notable facts:

Reporting Requirement: Quarterly reporting by We Care on outcomes - Office of Grants and Contract Compliance.

Ordinance Number: 2021-382 **Historic Stanton Building Restoration Project**

Sponsor: CMs Gaffney and Priestly Jackson

City Council Standing Committees Assigned: Finance, NCSPHS

Date Passed by City Council: In committee

Funding Amount: \$300,000

Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents Served: Old Stanton High School is a three-story building listed on the National Register of Historic Places with strong local historical significance. The 104-year-old historic landmark was condemned as unsafe last year and this funding is meant to help cover immediate structural needs. The Old Stanton High School was for years during the segregation era Duval County's only high school for African Americans. High school education was added there when writer/activist/educator James Weldon Johnson was principal. It was also credited as the site of the first public performance of "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," the song Johnson co-created with his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson, and later labeled the Negro national anthem.

Narrative of Legislation (include if it's a pilot program and if additional funding maybe sought in the future): Funds to be used for building improvements at the Historic Stanton School, located at 521 West Ashley Street.

Testimonial of Neighbor Served:

Amendment to Legislation, if any, funding and rationale: Additional funding amendment

Any other notable facts:

Reporting Requirement: Department of Public Works will oversee the project.

Ordinance Number: 2021-383 **Hilltop Apartments Emergency Assistance**

Sponsor: CMs Pittman and White

City Council Standing Committees Assigned: Finance, NCSPHS

Date Passed by City Council: In committee

Funding Amount: \$140,399

Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents Served: Residents of Hilltop Apartments

Narrative of Legislation (include if it's a pilot program and if additional funding maybe sought in the future): These funds will provide emergency assistance to the Hilltop residents, including but not limited to moving expenses, furniture replacement, security deposits, first and last rent, and utilities. The Hilltop Apartments contains 200 units at 1646 W. 45th St., is privately owned, and gets federal money through a Section 8 rental assistance contract. The residents are currently experiencing serious health and safety concerns due to rodent infestation and mold conditions.

Testimonial of Neighbor Served:

Amendment to Legislation, if any, funding and rationale: Additional funding amendment

Any other notable facts:

Reporting Requirement: Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department – Social Services Division will oversee the project.

Special Committee on Social Justice and Community Investment Committee Charge:

The committee is established to serve as a clearinghouse for all ideas, policies and legislation pertaining to three main areas: (i) social injustices; (ii) law enforcement; and (iii) economic development (which encompasses employment, education and infrastructure issues). The goal of the committee is to further equal access and opportunity for all citizens of Jacksonville and to strive to establish programs and policies which serve to eradicate systemic bias as well as honor the unfulfilled promises of consolidation. The committee should engage in active listening of those adversely affected by the decisions of the past which has created historic inadequacies as well as to address current issues which further disparate outcomes. Through an open and frank dialogue of the issues affecting the City, it is my hope that the committee can leverage the momentum spurred by current events and work with community representatives, stakeholders, and community organizations in the process to address present and past inequities by providing equal access and opportunity for the citizens of Jacksonville.

The committee may conduct research and collect and analyze data; it will act as a coordinated group to advise for programs, activities and legislative action which may improve the social inequalities within the City. The committee may also propose policy recommendations for consideration by the Council and the Mayor and executive branch agencies. I am directing the committee to complement any proposals with definitive, practical action plans. The committee may seek advice from public and private subject matter experts and will encourage maximum public participation in its work. It should consider recent work and recommendations of the Charter Revision Commission and community groups, non-profits and those with firsthand knowledge and “boots on the ground” all of which have already established valuable work on the topics of the committee.

For more information and for previous meeting videos and minutes, go to:

<https://www.coj.net/city-council/standing-committees/special-committee-social-justice-community-invest>

Staff

Dr. Cheryl Brown
Council Secretary/Director

Margaret M. “Peggy” Sidman
Deputy Legislative Affairs and Managing Deputy
Office of General Counsel

Phillip Peterson, C.P.A.
Assistant Council Auditor

Colleen Hampsey, MPA
Council Research Assistant
CHampsey@coj.net 904-255-5151

117 W. Duval Street
City Hall, Suite 425
Jacksonville, FL 32202