



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

MATT CARLUCCI, SR.
COUNCIL MEMBER AT-LARGE, GROUP 4
OFFICE (904) 255-5218
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CITY HALL AT ST. JAMES
117 WEST DUVAL STREET
4TH FLOOR, SUITE 425
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

TOWN HALL MEETING RE: SOLID WASTE SERVICES

Co-hosted by Council Members Matt Carlucci, Randy White, Brenda Priestly Jackson & Randy DeFoor
Monday, January 31, 2022
6:45 p.m.

Location: West Branch Library, Chaffee Road

Sign-in Sheet Record:

Bob Kinder	Pat Deerfield (?)	Pam Platt	Hilda Smith
Danny Foucht	Len Burroughs	Gill Bush	John J. Nooney
Joe Shelley	Brian Werring	Margaret Julian	Jane Ramsdell
Conastine Morgan	Pat McCollugh	Jackie Smith	Herb Ramsdell
Chris Miller	Raymond Johnson, Sr.	Nancy Queriones	Dave Sheplar
Wanda Cason	Raymond Johnson, II	Linda Andrews	Wayne Culbertson
Robbin Byrd	Karen North	Michael McGill	Dale E. Holt
Barbara Gubbin	Robert Tolly	Rachel McGill	Susan Patterson
Betty Hayes	Anne Marie Tucker	Veronica Hernandes	Mark Patterson
Tyrona Clark-Murray	Brooks Dame	Jose Hernandes	Phillip Hampton
Randy Wishard	Steve Singletary	Paula Lia (?)	
Pam Wishard	Joe Platt	Raymond Smith	

Total Attendance: 60+

Meeting Convened: 6:43 p.m.

CM Carlucci brought the meeting to order and gave opening remarks. After thanking everyone assembled for taking time to join the conversation, he welcomed members of the Administration and City Council members, as well as representatives from the City's contracted haulers and Public Works. CM Carlucci also expressed thanks to District 12 and CM Randy White for graciously hosting the meeting. CM Carlucci said, "It has been my experience over these many years in public service that some of the best ideas come from a Town Hall meeting. And that's why we came—to hear from you, the citizens of Jacksonville."

Several reminders were given to sign-in, complete speaker cards, submit hand-written ideas, and collect one or more of the printed materials provided related to solid waste services. CM Carlucci set the tone for the evening by asking the group to agree to civility, respect, and transparency. He also stated that the meeting had two purposes: (1) to share information about this multi-layered issue and (2) to hear constructive feedback. "While accountability is important, finding solutions is more important," he said, and briefly touched on his earlier support of refunds, for fee-based services not being rendered by the



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City, by reviewing how solid waste fees currently cover less than 80% of the cost, which would result in refunds of less than \$25 per household. He then passed the floor to each attending Council member.

Council members White, Priestly Jackson, and DeFoor made brief remarks and thanked everyone for attending. Mr. Brian Hughes, Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Jacksonville, then gave remarks.

Mr. Hughes stated that the Administration shared the community's frustrations with the current solid waste issues and that Mayor Curry does not intend for the suspension of recycling to be a permanent situation. He then provided a brief history of solid waste services and events that have led to present-day constraints. He mentioned the effects of Consolidation which led to having an urban core still served by the City and the rest of the county/city served privately through contracts. He defined the haulers currently under contract: Meridian, WastePro, and Waste Management. The four regions reflected on the map displayed were referenced, and Republic was defined as the managers of the city's recycling process. He also mentioned the merger between Advanced Disposal and Waste Management which directly impacted West Jacksonville and briefly discussed the challenges brought about due to the merger.

Staff shortages and/or absences due to COVID-19 were also reviewed, as well as the significant shortage of CDL drivers to populate applicant pools whenever drivers are needed. Nation-wide driver shortages were mentioned with emphasis on the issue not being just about financial resources, but also about human resources. Mr. Hughes reiterated that City crews were continuing to augment contract areas when lapses in services occurred, despite having their own region to and working seven days a week. Transfer stations and windshield time were emphasized, and Mr. Hughes expressed the need to seriously consider the addition of transfer stations to reduce windshield time in regions furthest from the landfill.

Mr. Will Williams, Chief of the Solid Waste Division, was asked to share his perspective on why drivers were very difficult to recruit and retain. He explained the current conditions and dangers of the job, both for drivers and throwers. He discussed current pay rates, that drivers follow the wages and employment benefits, and also spoke about the aspirations of potential employees who may envision using their skills and licensure to work in another industry with less personal risk or stigma.

CM Carlucci called time for public comment and reminded everyone of the hard stop at 7:45 out of courtesy for library hours of operation. He also stated that hearing from the public was one of the primary reasons for holding the meeting and that he wanted to dedicate a full 30 minutes to citizen feedback. Each person wishing to speak was reminded to complete and submit a blue card and to keep remarks to three minutes per person.



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Public Comment

Speakers & Listed Topics (not in order of appearance)

- Tyrona Clark-Murray; recycling
- Robbin Byrd; accountability and transparency
- Wanda Cason; no topic listed
- John J. Nooney; JTA, Jacksonville Trash Authority
- Hilda Smith; Waste Management
- Raymond Johnson, II; trash pick up problems
- Anne Marie Tucker; no topic listed
- Michael McGill; Why is there a problem with yard trash pick up?

(not in order of appearance)

Ms. Tucker introduced herself as a resident of the intercoastal area, military wife, and nonprofit representative of Consequences Inc. Her nonprofit hopes to generate awareness of harmful effects of human activity on the environment and said that it breaks her heart to see items going to landfill that don't belong there. Regarding the current suspension of recycling and lack of services, she said it appears to be a contractual legal issue between the city and the haulers. If the haulers signed a contract to provide recycling service and they breached it, she said they should owe damages. She also said that haulers should not dictate new terms of the recycling contract.

Ms. Tucker stated that the issue comes down to priorities. She then asked, "Do we want a service that is good for our environment, or do we want to supplement a billion dollar football team owned by a multi-billionaire?" She addressed CM Carlucci directly and said that she understands that he doesn't think those values should be pitted against one another, but she disagreed and said this is the exact situation Jacksonville is in now. She stated that the mayor was "AWOL on this issue and left it to anyone else to solve." She then challenged Council members to ask themselves if paying to have recycling is more important than projects like Lot J.

She proposed exploring at least once per month as a start to restoring curbside recycling collections and providing more appropriately sized bins so people could more easily transport items to collection sites instead of compromising items by using plastic bags. Ms. Tucker also proposed rewarding residents who do recycle and asked why Republic does not "pay us to bring it to them." She closed by mentioning the petition her nonprofit started in November that has 2500 signatures and 30,000 views online. The petition, she said, would be brought to the mayor next month.



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Mr. Nooney introduced himself and shared his opinion that whether an increase in the garbage fee occurs before the next election cycle or not, he would like to see a partnership between the City and JTA in an effort to remove temporary recycling collections sites from City parks. He described the "Jacksonville Trash Authority" or "JTA" and asked that Nat Ford be invited to the next meeting. Mr. Nooney pointed out the park-n-ride lots throughout the city that would serve as viable alternatives and meet the requirements needed for collection trucks to enter/exit.

He also proposed a recycling competition that would incentivize students, schools, and citizens to participate.

Ms. Hilda Smith shared her concerns about a lack of transparency and communication. She emphasized that the citizens of Jacksonville were not informed that curbside service would end on a designated date. Neither were citizens informed of the reasons why the collection of trash, recyclables, and yard waste were suffering, despite lack of services continuing for several months. She stated that the curbside recycling suspension did not resolve missed collections of trash and yard waste in her community and noted that it still is not being picked up in a timely manner. She also added that, after the media announced suspension of curbside recycling, it took five weeks for yard waste to be collected at her residence.

Ms. Smith proposed changing the City budget to prioritize essential services that benefit all the citizens of Jacksonville. She stated that the focus had been taken off what citizens consider a top priority, and that attention was instead diverted to projects downtown. She reminded the Council members that they are the voice of the people, all the people, and not just a few. Ms. Smith stated that to reduce waste volume in the landfills, City leaders must bring back curbside recycling. She also offered suggestions for staff shortages, including giving job opportunities to released inmates with minor, non-violent offenses or partnering with the Sulzbacher or City Rescue Mission to provide job opportunities to people who are unemployed or homeless. Ms. Smith also suggested using local yard and tree service companies for picking up yard waste.

Mr. Raymond Johnson, II, shared his experience living on Stratton Lane (32221) where regular household garbage pick-up fell on Friday 12/24. He stated that, while he didn't expect it to be picked up on Christmas Eve, he also did not expect or appreciate that it took three weeks for household garbage to be collected on his street. He stated that his home and that of eight other neighbors had trash from the holidays in addition to three weeks of household waste. Mr. Johnson also reported that since Christmas, his household garbage had only been picked up twice.



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He also stated at the meeting that, had he not been working seven days a week during the holidays, he would have loaded everyone's garbage onto his flatbed trailer and haul it to the dump himself and pay the dump fee out of pocket. He also planned to contact the media had he been able to make the haul.

Mr. Johnson asked why the issue of staff shortages seemed to appear overnight. Council members and Mr. Hughes responded that this wasn't an overnight issue and had been compiling over time. Mr. Johnson then suggested that the City partner with the contracted haulers to conduct a public, media campaign for recruitment purposes and host job fairs to fill the vacancies.

Ms. Robbin Byrd summarized her perspective by saying, "It's all about money. Always, it's All about money." She stated that she disagreed with Mr. Hughes regarding the lower volume of requests for missed collections and shared that calling the City about missed collection only earned the "blanket statement" of "We'll get to you." She also stated that she had not heard from her District Council member or received responses by email. She suggested that temporary recycling sites be staffed and proposed involving volunteer organizations like Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, or others. She also stated her opposition the increasing of the solid waste fee and asked why City leaders have waited so long to address this issue and thereby allowed it to "get so bad."

Ms. Wanda Cason suggested using what resources Jacksonville currently has, including local yard businesses, tree services, and non-violent prisoners. She stated that the City could use this as an opportunity to promote small businesses locally by opening up the procurement process.

NOTE: a total of eight speakers were heard. Because the meeting was not audio or video recorded, remarks from every speaker are not available.

CM Carlucci concluded public comment after eight speakers due to a hard stop at 7:45 and the library closing at 8 pm. He thanked everyone for participating and mentioned the next Town Hall scheduled for February 15 in the Arlington area. Details about the meeting can be found online on his Council page, he said. CM Carlucci gave a huge thanks to library personnel working behind the scenes to make the evening possible, including Carol Bunker, and then called the meeting adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:48 p.m.

Minutes: Prepared by Sheri Webber, Executive Council Assistant – At-Large, Group 4, 904-255-5159, swebber@coj.net

The written minutes for this meeting were captured with AI, are not verbatim, and are not legally binding. Because this meeting was not audio or video recorded, a verbatim transcript is not available.



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COUNCIL

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SUITE 425, CITY HALL
117 WEST DUVAL STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202
E-MAIL: MCarlucci@COJ.NET

January 31, 2022
West Branch Library, 1425 Chaffee Rd. S., 32221
6:45 p.m.

AMENDED MEETING AGENDA

RE: Accountability, Transparency, and the State of Solid Waste Services in Jacksonville

In the interest of greater transparency, accountability, and improved services, the primary objectives of this meeting are to share information and receive feedback. The City's contracted hauler and Public Works leadership will be available to answer questions during the public Q&A.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| I. Welcome & Opening Remarks | (3 min) | (CM Carlucci) |
| II. Co-Host - Remarks | (3-5 min) | (CM White) |
| III. Co-Host - Remarks | (3-5 min) | (CM Priestly Jackson) |
| IV. Co-Host - Remarks | (3-5 min) | (CM DeFoor) |
| V. Administration - Remarks | (7-10 min) | (Brian Hughes) |
| VI. Q&A - Public Comment | (30 min) | |
| VII. Thanks & Dismissal | (2-3 min) | (CM Carlucci) |

(HARD STOP at 7:45 p.m.)

NOTE: public comment participants will be required to complete a speaker card prior to the public comment portion of the agenda. Members of the public will be limited to 2-3 minutes to allow for a maximum number of speakers.

Due to COVID-19, masks are recommended, and social distancing will be in place. For additional information or correspondence, please contact Sheri Webber, Executive Council Assistant at swebber@coj.net. The meeting will not be livestreamed, audio recorded, or video recorded. Minutes will be made available 3-5 business days after the meeting concludes.

ADA ACCOMMODATION NOTICE: Pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act, accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow notification 1-2 business days to process; last-minute requests will be accepted but may not be possible to fulfill. Please contact Disabled Services Division at: V 904-255-5466, TTY-904-255-5476, or email your request to KaraT@coj.net.

cc: Council Members and Staff
Interim Director/Council Secretary
Jessica Matthews, Chief, Legislative Services Division
Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division
Kristi Sikes, Chief, Administrative Services Division
CITYC@COJ.NET
Electronic Notice Kiosk – 1st Floor City Hall

Public Notice System – City Council Web Page
Media Box
File Copy

UPCOMING TOWN HALLS

RECYCLING • YARD DEBRIS • OTHER SERVICES

Council Member Matt Carlucci, At-Large, Group 4

will host two opportunities for public feedback on Jacksonville's solid waste services

Co-hosts

CM Randy DeFoor (Dist. 14)

CM Brenda Priestly Jackson
(Dist. 10)

CM Randy White (Dist. 12)

Monday, January 31

6:45 pm

at the West Branch Library
1425 Chaffee Rd. S., 32221

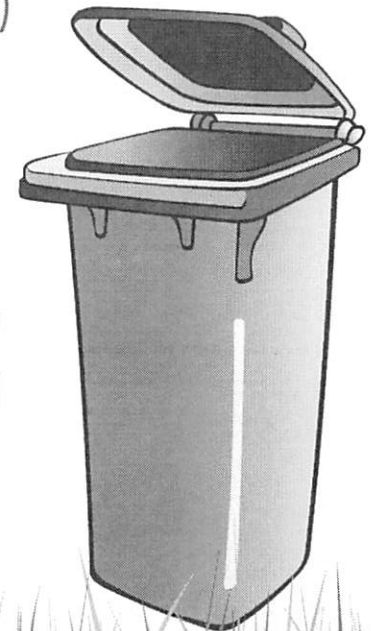
Co-host

CM Joyce Morgan (Dist. 1)

Tuesday, February 15

7:00 pm

Chapel Hall at
Arlington Baptist Church
6009 Arlington Rd., 32211



Your voice matters.

REQUEST TO SPEAK / REGISTER - JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: Tyrone Clark-Murray DATE: 1/31/22
ADDRESS: 1030 Detroit St. PHONE: _____
CITY: Jax COUNTY: Duval STATE: FL ZIP: 32254

REPRESENTING: self

SIGNATURE: T. Murray I DO NOT WISH TO SPEAK

PUBLIC HEARING: Bill Number _____
 I Support I Oppose
 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Bill Number _____
 I Support I Oppose

CHOOSE ONE

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: Subject Recycling

SPEAKING TIME IS LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES PER SPEAKER.
NO SPEAKER MAY GIVE OR TRANSFER THEIR TIME TO ANOTHER PERSON.

(PLEASE READ THE REVERSE SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON SPEAKING BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL.)

SPEAKER'S ONLY REQUEST CARD

JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Please print and complete item 1 below for Council/Committee Public Hearing or item 2 below for Public Comments Section of City Council agenda:

NAME: Wanda Cason DATE: 1-31-22
ADDRESS: 10875 Flamingo Ave PHONE: 904-534-1740
REPRESENTING: Whitehouse citizens

1: PUBLIC HEARING BILL NUMBER: _____

I SUPPORT _____ (or) I OPPOSE _____ THIS LEGISLATION

2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC SUBJECT: _____

**SPEAKING TIME IS LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES PER SPEAKER
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(Please read the reverse side for instructions on speaking before the Council)

SPEAKER'S ONLY REQUEST CARD

JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Please print and complete item 1 below for Council/Committee Public Hearing or item 2 below for Public Comments Section of City Council agenda:

NAME: Robbin Byrd DATE: 1/31/22
ADDRESS: 8218 Cannon St. PHONE: 703-5973
REPRESENTING: Me,

1: PUBLIC HEARING BILL NUMBER: _____

I SUPPORT _____ (or) I OPPOSE _____ THIS LEGISLATION

2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC SUBJECT: Accountability & Transparency

**SPEAKING TIME IS LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES PER SPEAKER
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(Please read the reverse side for instructions on speaking before the Council)

SPEAKER'S ONLY REQUEST CARD

JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Please print and complete item 1 below for Council/Committee Public Hearing or item 2 below for Public Comments Section of City Council agenda:

NAME: John J. Noonan DATE: 1/31/2022
ADDRESS: 8356 Barcom Rd. PHONE: 904.434.0839
REPRESENTING: FIND, JTA, FWC, JOB Q. Public

1: PUBLIC HEARING BILL NUMBER: _____

I SUPPORT _____ (or) I OPPOSE _____ THIS LEGISLATION

2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC SUBJECT: JTA - JACKSONVILLE TRASH AUTHORITY
USE JTA REGIONAL HQS FOR RECYCLING. NOT OUR PARKS

**SPEAKING TIME IS LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES PER SPEAKER
NO SPEAKER MAY GIVE OR TRANSFER HIS/HER TIME TO SPEAK TO ANOTHER PERSON**

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SPEAKER'S ONLY REQUEST CARD

JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Please print and complete item 1 below for Council/Committee Public Hearing or item 2 below for Public Comments Section of City Council agenda:

NAME: Raymond Johnson II DATE: 1.31.22

ADDRESS: 3044 Stratton 2N PHONE: 904.338.4951

REPRESENTING: _____

1: PUBLIC HEARING BILL NUMBER: _____

I SUPPORT _____ (or) I OPPOSE _____ THIS LEGISLATION

2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC SUBJECT: Trash Pick up Problems

**SPEAKING TIME IS LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES PER SPEAKER
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Please print and complete item 1 below for Council/Committee Public Hearing or item 2 below for Public Comments Section of City Council agenda:

NAME: Hilda L. Smith DATE: 1-31-2022
ADDRESS: WESTSIDE PHONE: (904) 563-6705
REPRESENTING: MYSELF

1: PUBLIC HEARING BILL NUMBER: _____

I SUPPORT _____ (or) I OPPOSE _____ THIS LEGISLATION

2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC SUBJECT: WASTE MGMT

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SPEAKER'S ONLY REQUEST CARD

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Please print and complete item 1 below for Council/Committee Public Hearing or item 2 below for Public Comments Section of City Council agenda:

NAME: Anne Marie Tucker DATE: _____
ADDRESS: 488 Blagdon Ct Queens Harbor PHONE: 200-1130
REPRESENTING: CO2sequences Inc - non profit

1: PUBLIC HEARING BILL NUMBER: _____

I SUPPORT _____ (or) I OPPOSE _____ THIS LEGISLATION

2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC SUBJECT: _____

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SPEAKER'S ONLY REQUEST CARD

JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Please print and complete item 1 below for Council/Committee Public Hearing or item 2 below for Public Comments Section of City Council agenda:

NAME: Michael McGill DATE: 1/31/22

ADDRESS: 8459 Pebble St. PHONE: 706 969 8234

REPRESENTING: Country Creek

1: PUBLIC HEARING BILL NUMBER: ?

I SUPPORT _____ (or) I OPPOSE _____ THIS LEGISLATION

2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC SUBJECT: Why is there a Problem with
Yard Trash pick up

SPEAKING TIME IS LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES PER SPEAKER
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(Please read the reverse side for instructions on speaking before the Council)

We were told recycling will be suspended ~~to~~ get trash & yard waste pick up on a timely basis. That did not happen. After this occurred it took 5 weeks for our yard waste to pick up.

1. LACK OF TRANSPARENCY

We were not told why we were not receiving our waste hauling services

We are

2. ~~✓~~ PAYING FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES WE ARE NOT RECEIVING

Where is the money going?

If essential services cannot be fulfilled in the budget,

3. The budget needs to be changed

ESSENTIAL SERVICES THAT

affect the majority of the

tax payers should be top priority.

There is a pattern that prioritizes multi million dollar SOLUTIONS over NON ESSENTIAL PROJECTS PROVIDING ESSENTIAL

1. PAY WASTE HAULERS MORE ^{services to citizens} CHANGE BUDGET _{OF TAX.}

2. PRIORITIZE ESSENTIAL SERVICES THAT IMPACT THE MAJORITY OF THE ~~TAXPAYER~~ CITIZENS OF JACKSONVILLE

3. Instead of multi million dollar projects that benefit a few HAVE CITIZEN'S OF TAX VOTE ON ANY NEW MILLION PROJECTS

Why is there no pre-planning
on infrastructure.

IE:

Westside of Jax is getting
built up at a rapid pace
And no Road widening, no
supermarkets and drug stores
for the extra families being
brought into the area.

This is poor planning!

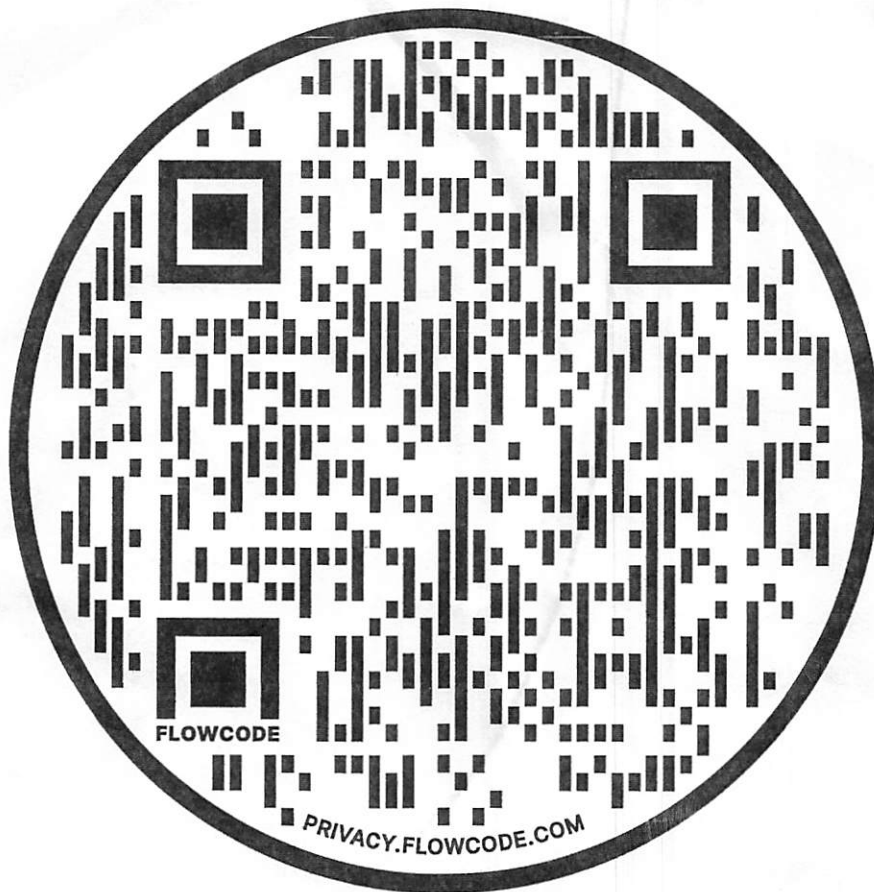
Michael McGill

706 969 8234

mmcgill07@yahoo.com

SIGN OUR PETITION

BRING BACK CURBSIDE RECYCLING TO JACKSONVILLE



The city of Jacksonville has suspended curbside recycling indefinitely. Currently, there are 14 recycling drop-off sites that are overflowing with recyclables. Citizens that cannot make it to the centers are left with no choice but to put their items in regular trash. As a result, many inherently recyclable materials are being brought to landfills where they will take decades to decompose.

This suspension directly increases destructive greenhouse gases.

The mayor needs to be informed that not only Jacksonville citizens, but our planet Earth, are in dire need of curbside pickup's restoration.

