



JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Critical Quality of Life Issues Special Committee Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2022

9:30 a.m.

Lynwood Roberts Room
First Floor, City Hall
117 W. Duval Street

Topic: Critical Quality of Life Issues Special Committee: Organizational Meeting

Attendance: Council President Freeman; Council Members Boylan, Salem, Newby, Howland and Pittman; Beth Payne, Northeast Florida Regional Council; Mary Staffopoulos– Office of General Council; Phillip Peterson- Council Auditor’s Office; Colleen Hampsey – Council Research Division

Subject Matter Experts: Jennifer Ryan, CEO Volunteers in Medicine; Dawn Gillman, CEO Changing Homelessness; Dr. David Jaffee, UNF Professor of Sociology and JAX Rental Housing Project

Convened: 9:32 am

Council Member Boylan welcomed the group and called for introductions. Council President Freeman thanked the attendees and committee members for their participation, and he expressed his enthusiasm for the important work ahead. He explained the committee’s charge, which is to assess interrelated issues related to access to healthcare, affordable/workforce housing and homelessness.

CM Boylan explained the process, that will include three working groups dedicated to each of the three aforementioned issues in conjunction with subject matter experts and entities within the public, private and nonprofit sectors. He said that the committee will look at the scope of each issue, what is being done to address each issue and by whom, and the best practices or policies other communities are utilizing. CM Boylan noted the timeline, which for government action tends to be not fast despite the sense of urgency related to healthcare access, affordable/workforce housing and homelessness. The intent for the committee is to be thorough and methodical in their work. CVP Salem extended thanks to CM Boylan and CP Freeman for bringing this committee together.

CM Howland commented on the correlation between veteran homelessness and suicide. He will be co-chair to the homelessness working group, with subject matter expert Dawn Gillman, CEO Changing Homelessness, and other community partners. Ms. Gillman shared that she looks forward to the committee’s work.

CM Pittman spoke about the issue of affordable housing. She will be co-chair to the affordable housing/workforce housing working group, with Dr. David Jaffee, UNF Professor of Sociology and JAX Rental Housing Project. Dr. Jaffee described the work of the JAX Rental Housing Project, which is gathering and analyzing qualitative and quantitative data related to local housing issues, while working with displaced residents and conducting policy reviews from other states and Europe.

CM Newby spoke about access to healthcare. He will be co-chair to the healthcare working group, with subject matter experts Jennifer Ryan, CEO Volunteers in Medicine, and Paul Sapia, Humana.

Beth Payne, Northeast Florida Regional Council, went over the schedule for the working group meetings and the meetings for the committee as a whole. The committee's end product will be a uniform report with policy recommendations. She mentioned the extensive expertise and experience from the individuals and groups in attendance, and she said that if anyone knows of others who could add to the committee's work they should be invited to participate. She said that prior to the first working group meeting, subject matter experts should prepare an explanation of what their organization does and who it serves/does not serve. Ms. Payne said the groups will examine what is happening already in the community and what the City is doing in these three areas. CM Pittman said that gathering residents' input is essential on the affordable housing piece.

Mary Staffopoulos, Office of General Counsel, spoke about the working group format and Sunshine Law compliance. Under this structure, each meeting held will be a noticed meeting, but subject matter experts are able to communicate and coordinate with the group co-chairs as needed.

Public Comment

Pastor Barlow spoke about developer economic incentives from the City and placing a percentage requirement for each incentive to set aside for housing and assisting with homelessness.

Carnell Oliver talked about using contingency funds for health clinics in underserved neighborhoods, providing dental care and childcare assistance, zoning reform and workforce development.

Adjourned: 10:14 am

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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