



JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Critical Quality of Life Issues Special Committee Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2022

1:00 pm

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

Topic: Critical Quality of Life Issues Special Committee: Final Report Draft review

Attendance: Council President Freeman; Council Members Boylan, Salem, Newby, Howland, Pittman and Ferraro; Beth Payne and Noel Comeaux, Northeast Florida Regional Council; Colleen Hampsey, Council Research Division

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

Convened: 1:03 pm

Council Member Boylan welcomed the group and called for introductions. He said that the purpose of this meeting was to review the draft of the CQLI Special Committee's final report.

Beth Payne, Northeast Florida Regional Council, spoke about the report format which includes the committee charge from the Council President, the scope of each issue, the results from the SWOT analysis, testimonials, best practices and policy recommendations. The report also has several appendices with lists of presenters, co-chair biographies and a resource guide. CM Boylan said that he thinks the report captures the committee's process and the complexity of the quality-of-life issues (affordable housing, healthcare access and homelessness). He said that the group should talk about how to present the report to council at the December 13th meeting.

CM Newby thanked everyone for their participation in the committee's work. He said that action will be taken based on the policy recommendations and that the report will not just sit on a shelf. Jennifer Ryan said she was pleased with the report draft.

Dr. Jaffee said that the report is a means to an end, not an end itself. He said that the working groups' efforts should not merely be performative, and that it is imperative for council members to take the policy recommendations seriously.

CM Pittman said that it was a great experience to have so many relevant parties in the same room, from real estate developers to local residents grappling with barriers in the rental market. She mentioned the impact from the testimonials from renters who shared their stories.

Dawn Gilman, Changing Homelessness, informed the group of a recent \$2.5 million grant award her organization received from the Day 1 Families Fund, a private gift organization launched by Jeff Bezos to help families in need. The grant period is five years and will not fund building additional shelters but instead will focus on solving problems that led people to homelessness in the first place. Ms. Gilman spoke about the intersection with the quality-of-life issues, how housing is healthcare, and how the city needs a full spectrum of housing options for individuals/families from all income levels.

CM Howland provided some input on the homelessness portion of the report and said that it should include their recommendations to increase housing stock and focus on diversion methods.

CVP Salem extended appreciation to the Northeast Florida Regional Council for creating the report, and said that legislation stemming from the policy recommendations should be championed by the working group committee chairs.

CP Freeman shared his feelings of joy and optimism about the work from this committee. He thanked CM Boylan for his leadership and said that legislation from the committee's work would need 10 votes from council (at minimum) to pass. He noted that there were 7 council members in attendance, almost the number needed for passage.

CM Ferraro thanked all who participated in the process and complimented Ms. Payne on the report.

CM Newby made a motion to adopt the final report and submit it to council, CM Pittman seconded the motion and the other committee members approved unanimously (5-0).

The group decided to present the final report to council at the December 13th meeting with a brief overview of the committee's process. CP Freeman said he would hold a noticed meeting after the holidays to discuss formulating legislation based upon some of the policy recommendations.

Public Comment

Carnell Oliver talked about the affordable housing crisis, getting assistance from the state legislature, revenue streams from taxing districts or sales taxes, inter-county cooperation, and development in CD 12.

Adjourned: 1:56 pm

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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