



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEMBER RAUL ARIAS
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MEETING MINUTES

Location: Don Davis Room, first floor of City Hall at 117 West Duval Street, Jacksonville, FL 32210

Attendance: Council Member Jimmy Peluso, Council Member Raul Arias, Evin Von Herzberg Executive Council Assistant, Brooks Dame, Executive Council Assistant, Build Up Downtown Executive Director Allan DeVault, Changing Homelessness Chief Executive Officer Dawn Gilmore, Representative Wyman Duggan

Meeting Convened: 4:00 PM

Council Member Jimmy Peluso welcomed and thanked Council Member Raul Arias and Council Member Rahman Johnson for attending.

Council Member Jimmy Peluso sets the table that the J-bill is a bill that would, if passed, give the ability to the City of Jacksonville to be able to implement a tax on restaurants and hotels to have a sole funding source for the unhoused. He noted this bill is a tool in the Council's toolbox Guest speaker Ms. Dawn Gilmore addresses Miami-Dade County which has the same assessment that is proposed in the J-bill, covering the reduction of homelessness in Miami-date and a greater than 5 percent reduction in Veteran homelessness.

Councilman Rahman Johnson ques the question of the existing tools in the belt not being used as there are already organizations set up for this particular goal. If the efficiency isn't fixed from this point, adding more tax dollars would help. Ms. Gilmore responds, noting all organizations who receive federal funding to address homelessness are all working together through a coordinated intake program to maximize each dollar spent.

Mr. Allan Devault gave a brief history of the Homeless Trust as implemented in Miami-Dade.

Councilman Arias asks where the money would be used, this is explained by Ms. Gilmore who says the funds would be accessible by the entire county but that roughly 50 Percent of the unhoused population lives downtown. The first phase will need to be developing a set of goals and benchmarks for a Homeless Trust to then steer the funding.

This would also be a mandatory bill for the entire county as no City District would be able to opt out of this if the funding isn't being used primarily in their District.

The J-Bill is further clarified that this would only apply to restaurants grossing more than \$400,000 in annual revenue of which this number was chosen from data from 1992.

The meeting ended as there was open hearing from the hotel and restaurant owners.



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Meeting Adjourned: 4: 49 PM

Minutes prepared by Evin Von Herzberg, Executive Council Assistant to Council Member Raul Arias. The following items were submitted for public record and can be accessed by contacting the Legislative Services:

Noticed Meeting CM Jimmy Peluso and CM Raul Arias
Sign In Sheet Noticed Meeting CM Jimmy Peluso and CM Raul Arias
Minutes Noticed Meeting CM Jimmy Peluso and CM Raul Arias

cc: Council Members and Staff
Margaret "Peggy" Sidman, Director/Council Secretary
Merriane Lahmeur, Chief, Legislative Services
Yvonne Mitchell, Chief, Administrative Services Division
Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division
Teresa Eichner, Chief, Public Information
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